

# HALIFAX metro®



## Concern grows for missing Haligonian

Sister says her 'heart is breaking'; Loretta Saunders was last seen Thursday

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## Whaddya mean I can't own a bear?

Metro kicks off three-day feature with a look at what it takes to own wild critters ranging from a serval cat to a 16-foot python

PAGES 10 & 11

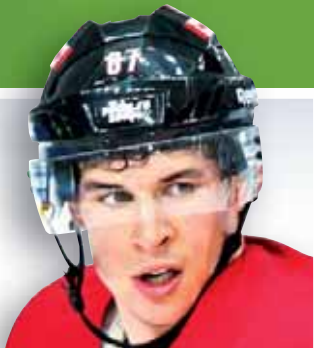
## Hey hockey fans, relax — we won

Nathan MacKinnon scores with comments on Sidney Crosby after heat from lacklustre Sochi scoring thus far

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## THREE TO WATCH IN SOCHI

- 11 a.m. The Brad Jacobs rink will meet China in curling semifinals.
- 12:15 a.m. Heather Moyse and Kaillie Humphries take final runs in bobsled.
- 1 p.m. Canada vs. Latvia in the quarter-finals of men's hockey. GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO



## GOLD FOR BEST REACTION GOES TO ...

Canada's Marie-Ève Drolet, left, Valérie Maltais and Marianne St-Gelais react as the results are announced that they won the silver medal in the women's 3,000-metre relay final at the Sochi Winter Olympics, Tuesday. It was one of two silver medals Canada won yesterday, bringing the medal total to 17. Olympic coverage, pages 22-25. PAUL CHAISSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Too early to talk stadium?

**Not a touchdown, yet.** Premier says plan should look at other uses besides CFL

Quoted

"If a proposal comes forward around the stadium, we're certainly willing to talk."

Premier Stephen McNeil



HALEY RYAN  
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Premier Stephen McNeil says it's still too early for the province to weigh in on whether or not Halifax should have an outdoor stadium, but he's "more than willing" to have a conversation about the idea.

After a Halifax Chamber of Commerce event Tuesday, McNeil told reporters he hasn't been engaged by anyone officially to talk about a stadium, or what role the province could play in bringing one to HRM.

"We're more than willing and prepared to meet the mayor at any time," McNeil said.

HRM Mayor Mike Savage has voiced his support for a stadium and possible Canadian Football League team. He recently urged business leaders to step up and form partner-

ships with the city in order to make the stadium dream a reality, after CFL commissioner Mark Cohon visited Halifax last week.

McNeil said the stadium has come up in talks with Savage, and noted the mayor is "very passionate" about the project.

From a provincial point of view, McNeil said they have to look at what infrastructure is needed and how a stadium could benefit Nova Scotia.

He said a formal plan should look into what the stadium would be used for, such as linking it together with university teams or other organizations besides just a CFL team.

"All those kinds of questions," McNeil said. "It's very early for us to determine that, but we're more than happy to have a conversation."



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**Sweeping review**

## Public education system to go under the microscope

The Nova Scotia government is poised to conduct a sweeping review of the province's public education system, saying the last time it went under the microscope was 25 years ago.

"Think about how much has changed in the last 25 years," Premier Stephen McNeil said Tuesday, adding that the process will go beyond the curriculum review he promised during the election campaign last fall.

Among other things, McNeil said the review will look at the length of the school day, the length of the academic year and the use of technology in classrooms.

"It will be a broader, deeper dive," McNeil said in a speech to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce.

"We need to make sure that we're providing the next generation of young Nova Scotians with the skills required to meeting the ever-changing demands of our economy."

The study will be conducted by a group of prominent Nova Scotians, though McNeil didn't say who would be on the panel.

The terms of the review panel and its membership were scheduled to be announced Wednesday by Education Minister Karen Casey.

During the election campaign, McNeil also promised to cap class size at 20 students for primary to Grade 2, and at 25 for grades 3 to 6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Premier Stephen McNeil addresses a business lunch in Halifax on Tuesday at the Cunard Centre. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Premier takes aim at job grant program

**Criticism.** McNeil says proposed changes will harm provincial literacy programs

Premier Stephen McNeil has added his name to the list of premiers criticizing the federal government over proposed changes to the Canada Job Grant.

The changes announced earlier this month in the federal budget will harm provincial literacy programs and won't work for businesses in the province, McNeil said Tuesday after a speech to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce.

"We also believe that the

Canada Job Grant doesn't work for Nova Scotia companies and we've heard it loud and clear," McNeil said. "This absolutely makes no sense."

The proposed grant initially offered \$15,000 for each eligible worker to be divided equally among Ottawa, the provinces and employers. But Ottawa has faced intense criticism that the program would siphon federal cash from existing provincially run programs for youth, aboriginals and disabled workers.

"We've clearly stated that we're not happy," McNeil said. "The Canada Job Grant program will cause organizations that are providing literacy programs and life skills to Nova Scotians to be really put under pressure. It's a substantial

amount of money."

The federal government has since said it will cover the provincial share and deliver the program on its own if it can't reach a deal with the provinces by April 1.

But Employment Minister Jason Kenney has stressed that Ottawa's preference is to reach an agreement in ongoing talks with the provinces and territories. A spokeswoman for Kenney said Tuesday that the Canada Job Grant also has the support of unions, employer associations and educators across the country.

Still, the latest proposal has caused fresh indignation in Quebec, where the Harper government has been accused of encroaching on provincial turf.

**Picking up the pieces**

"We can't pick up all of the places where the federal government is divesting themselves of their responsibility. We're running a deficit now, a substantial one."

Premier Stephen McNeil

Quebec Premier Pauline Marois has accused Ottawa of acting like a "real predator."

Ontario, Alberta and the other Atlantic premiers have all expressed varying reservations about the proposed program.

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## Concern. Family, friends of missing Halifax woman growing worried

Friends and family of Loretta Saunders are growing more concerned as the Halifax woman hasn't been seen for nearly a week.

Saunders, 26, was reported missing on Monday after she was last seen Thursday leaving her apartment in Cowie Hill. She was in contact with friends through online messaging on Friday, but there has been nothing since then.

Delilah Terriak, Saunders' sister, started the Facebook group Help Bring Loretta Saunders home and planned to fly back to Halifax from British Columbia on Wednesday.

"My heart is breaking more

and more as time passes and my sister is the one who encourages and inspires me to persevere," Terriak wrote in a Facebook post.

Terriak's friend Bridget Broussard, who she works with in British Columbia, said Terriak hadn't been concerned about Saunders for the first few days, but is now "really worried."

"It's really, really unlike her at all and she tells Delilah everything," said Broussard.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman, Const. Pierre Bourdages, said Saunders' family from Newfoundland and Labrador reported her missing.

"There's no indication she went back there, although it's possible," said Bourdages. "It's very unusual from her to not be in contact with anyone."

Saunders, a Saint Mary's University student, is described as five-foot-seven, 120 pounds with light brown straight hair. She is believed to be driving a blue 2000 Toyota Celica with the Newfoundland and Labrador licence plate of HCP 543, and a loud aftermarket muffler.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Loretta Saunders FACEBOOK

## Unsolved. Murder of Dartmouth woman added to N.S. rewards program

The province has added the murder of a young Dartmouth woman to its rewards program for unsolved crimes.

Keya Simon, 19, died after a fight during a party at the Pinecrest Drive home of her sister, Tiesha Allison, late on Jan. 8, 2011.

Simon's parents, Torina and Noel Simon, told Metro last month they believe Allison, along with several other people at the party, knows who is responsible for the murder — but won't tell police, possibly for fear of being labeled a "rat."

Anyone sharing information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Simon's death could receive up to \$150,000.

"I know it has been difficult for Ms. Simon's family to know that so many people were present the night she died and yet so little information has come forward," Justice Minister Lena Diab says in a statement released Tuesday. "I would urge anyone with any information, no matter how small it seems, to



Keya Simon FACEBOOK

contact the rewards line and help police solve this case."

Halifax Regional Police spokesperson Const. Pierre Bourdages told Metro last month there was nothing new to report in the case, and said it's up to eyewitnesses to speak up.

"We encourage these people to do the right thing and report what they saw or heard to police so we can move forward with the investigation," HRP Chief Jean-Michel Blais says in a statement.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



Irving's Halifax Shipyard is shown in this file photo. Irving Shipbuilding has added the Davie shipyard in Quebec as a defendant in its lawsuit against one of its former employees who it alleges took confidential company information. JEFF HARPER/METRO

# Irving Shipbuilding suing Davie shipyard

**Lawsuit.** Defendants deny allegations, say they've done nothing wrong

Halifax-based Irving Shipbuilding has added the Davie shipyard in Quebec as a defendant in its lawsuit against one of its former employees who it alleges took confidential company information.

Irving's statement of claim with the Nova Scotia Supreme Court has been amended to include Davie, where Jared Newcombe now works as the chief operational officer after resigning from the Irving shipyard last April.

Irving alleges in its lawsuit

that Newcombe took documents and electronic records that contain sensitive company information and gave some or all of that information to other Davie employees.

"Newcombe had no legitimate workplace need or purpose in relation to his downloading and/or copying of the misappropriated (Irving Shipbuilding) documents and information," the statement of claim alleges.

"Davie's conduct amounts to inducing Newcombe to breach his contractual duties toward (Irving Shipbuilding)."

In a statement of defence, Newcombe denies that he breached confidence and says the information wasn't proprietary because it was comprised of his work and taken from other industry sources.

### At a glance

- Irving and Davie, based in Levis, Que., were in the running for the federal government's \$25-billion shipbuilding contract, a competition Irving won in October 2011.
- The deal will see Irving build Canada's next fleet of navy warships.
- Construction of Arctic offshore patrol ships is expected to begin next year.

"It was derived from templates and information (Irving Shipbuilding) personnel utilized from other industry sources," the document says.

"In the alternative, if the (Irving Shipbuilding) information is confidential, which is not admitted but denied, the defendant did not misuse the confidential information."

The allegations have not been proven in court.

Davie issued a statement categorically denying all of Irving's allegations.

"Davie intends to rigorously defend against these allegations," the company said. "Davie is confident that the court will find in its favour."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Car drives off after driving over pedestrian's foot

### Crosswalk signal

- Halifax Regional Police say when the victim was crossing the intersection the walk signal was on.

Police in Halifax say a car left without stopping after driving over a pedestrian's foot in a Halifax crosswalk on Tuesday afternoon.

Police say a woman was walking in a crosswalk at an intersection on Joseph Howe

Drive around 1:45 p.m. A blue car was turning from Scot Street when it came into the intersection and drove over the woman's foot. The victim was treated on scene by paramedics, while the only information about the car is that it was blue

in colour. METRO

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# Tale of history and harmony comes to Neptune Theatre

**Oil and Water.** Story follows shipwrecked African American who finds a new life

**DESERIE MURPHY**  
halifax@metronews.ca

Award-winning Canadian playwright Robert Chafe says he hopes Haligonians will come away from his latest production a little more optimistic.

"It's been an absolute gift working on this production," Chafe said Tuesday of *Oil and Water*, which premieres Friday at Neptune Theatre.

The play is based on the true story of an African American who gets shipwrecked in Newfoundland in 1942.

Chafe was inspired by *The Incident* at St. Lawrence, a painting by Newfoundland and Labrador's Grant Boland.

"It was a hauntingly beautiful image that clearly had a story behind it," Chafe said.

Lanier Phillips was the only

## Conviction

**"His story must be heard."**

Actor Jeremiah Sparks, on survivor Lanier Phillips, who he plays in the production.

African American survivor of the shipwrecked USS *Truxton*. The residents of St. Lawrence transformed Phillips' life.

The show has been in production since 2011, though Phillips died two years ago.

"Now that he's gone, it's good I'm able to do this for him," Chafe said. "Lanier felt it was an important story to tell — not because it was about him but because it gives the possibility to teach people about goodwill, and on the other side of things, race relations."

Lanier's character will be performed by veteran actor Jeremiah Sparks.

Sparks said it's harder to play a real character than a fictitious one and that he takes the challenge very seriously.

"The audience will leave with a new sense of history, a new sense of harmony, unity," Sparks said.



Actors perform a scene from Neptune Theatre's production of *Oil and Water* on Tuesday afternoon. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Myles, Classified lead pack for ECMA nominations



David Myles, left, and Classified perform their hit song *Inner Ninja* at the Halifax Metro Centre last November. JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

Enfield's *Classified* and Halifax's David Myles are leading the way with six nominations each in the 2014 East Coast Music Awards.

The nominations were announced Tuesday in Charlotte-town. Prince Edward Island's Paper Lions are also up for six awards. Halifax-based Amelia Curran received five nominations, while Mo Kenney had four and Jenn Grant two.

*Classified* is up for best album, best rap/hip-hop recording, best song and fan's choice video of the year for *Inner*

*Ninja*, which features Myles.

In the songwriter category, Myles is nominated for his song *So Blind*, Curran for *Years* and Kenney for *Sucker*.

Myles is competing against *Classified* for album of the year and is also up for best folk and solo recordings.

Kenney was also nominated for pop and solo recording of the year and fan's choice entertainer of the year.

Curran's video for *Blackbird on Fire* is up for fan's choice video of the year. She was also nominated for folk

## Save the date

The 2014 East Coast Music Awards are on April 6 in Charlottetown.

recording, solo recording, song and songwriter of the year.

Grant is up for song of the year for *I've Got Your Fire* and for fan's choice video.

Other Nova Scotian nominees include Dave Gunning with *four* and Chester's *Old*

Man Luedecke with three nods, including album, folk, and solo recording of the year.

Local favourites *Rose Cousins* and the *Stanfields* are up for fan's choice entertainer award as well as Gunning. *Cousins* is also nominated for fan's choice video.

Jazz artist Erin Costello and jazz/indie group *Gypsophilia* from Halifax received two nominations.

The Halifax Jazz Festival and Halifax Pop Explosion were nominated for events of the year. **METRO**

## Pleasures and Treasures

### Sex-shop robbery ends in arrest

A 37-year-old man has been arrested after a robbery at a Nova Scotia sex shop.

Truro Police Service Deputy Chief Jim Flemming said the man, 37, was apprehended at about 9:20 p.m. on Monday, about three hours after the robbery at *Pleasures and Treasures*.

"Our officers responded and our K-9 unit was called out," Flemming said. "The K-9 unit tracked the suspect for a while and recovered some evidence, but then lost track."

Flemming said no weapon was used in the robbery, but the Truro man pushed the employee aside.

"He ended up taking some cash, but it doesn't say how much," the deputy chief noted. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

## Robert Edgar Paul

### New Year's Day shooting trial to resume in March

A Nova Scotia man facing several charges including attempted murder in connection with a New Year's Day shooting will return to court next month.

Twenty-one-year-old Robert Edgar Paul's case

has been adjourned until March 25.

Paul is one of two people charged in the incident at a home in Millbrook.

Twenty-five-year-old Macquell Weatherbee is due in court next Wednesday.

During the altercation, a 25-year-old man was shot and sustained non-life-threatening injuries, while a 19-year-old man was pepper sprayed.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Guysborough County

### Home support workers fully in favour of strike

Home support workers in Nova Scotia's Guysborough County have voted in favour of strike action.

Officials with the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union say 100 per cent of those

who cast ballots voted in favour of strike action.

The workers in Guysborough County were the last of 14 home support locals in the province to complete strike votes.

Union president Joan Jessome has said the key issue is wage parity with employees who do the same work in hospitals. Conciliation talks for the Guysborough County workers begin Wednesday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**





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# Police, protesters killed in clashes in Ukrainian capital

**Kyiv.** Officers in riot gear moved against main protest camp as anti-government faction fought back with rocks, bats and firebombs

Amid cries of "Glory to Ukraine!" and with flaming tires lighting up the night sky, thousands of riot police armed with stun grenades and water cannons attacked the protest camp in the centre of Kyiv on Tuesday, following a day of street battles that left 18 people dead and hundreds injured.

The violence was the deadliest in nearly three months of anti-government protests that have paralyzed Ukraine's capital in a struggle over the nation's identity.

With the boom of exploding stun grenades and fireworks nearly drowning out his words at times, opposition leader Vitali Klitschko urged the

## Canadian connection

A handful of anti-government protesters have taken shelter inside the Canadian embassy.

- Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird's office says they are peaceful and have not caused any damage or harm to staff.
- Canadian embassy workers are safe and accounted for, spokesman Adam Hodge said.

20,000 protesters to defend the camp on Independence Square.

"We will not go anywhere from here," Klitschko told the crowd. "This is an island of freedom and we will defend it," he said.

As police dismantled some of the barricades and tried to push away the protesters, they fought back with rocks, bats and firebombs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Anti-government protesters clash with riot police in Kyiv's Independence Square in Ukraine on Tuesday, where thousands of police attacked the large opposition camp in Ukraine's capital that has been the centre of nearly three months of anti-government protests. EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Pussy Riot members detained by police in Sochi



Pussy Riot members Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, in the blue balaclava, and Maria Alekhina, in the pink, make their way through a crowd after they were released from a police station Tuesday in Adler, Russia. MORRY GASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian punk group Pussy Riot burst onto the Olympic scene Tuesday when two of its members were picked up by police in Sochi — and then ran away defiant down a rain-soaked street a few hours later, shouting and wearing their trademark balaclavas.

The police questioning of Russia's most recognizable punk rockers, along with detentions of activists in recent days, brought political tensions to the fore at Vladimir Putin's showcase Winter Olympics.

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alekhina, along with seven others, were held by police near Sochi's ferry terminal, a popular area for fans celebrating the Games. Police said they were questioned in connection with a theft at a hotel. No charges were filed.

"Putin will teach you how to love the motherland!" the women chanted on leaving the police station, their fists in the air and blue, pink and orange ski masks covering their faces.

Tolokonnikova said Tues-

day's detention followed three days of police harassment. She also said the two band members were detained for several hours the previous two days.

"We members of Pussy Riot have been here since late Sunday and we were constantly detained since then," Tolokonnikova said after her release. "We are constantly surrounded by people, not you journalists, but people who are shadowing us, following our every move and looking for any excuse to detain us." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Renewed criticism

Russia's suppression of protests has been widely denounced in the West and the Pussy Riot detentions brought renewed criticism.

- "In Putin's Russia, the authorities have turned the Olympic rings ... into handcuffs to shackle freedom of expression," said John Dalhuisen, Europe director for Amnesty International, in a statement.

## Venezuela

### Opposition leader surrenders after days in hiding

Opposition leader Leopoldo López emerged from days of hiding and surrendered to police before thousands of supporters on Tuesday, saying he hopes his arrest awakens Venezuela to the corruption and economic

disaster caused by 15 years of socialist rule.

Speaking via megaphone to over 5,000 people, López said that he doesn't fear going to jail to defend his beliefs and right to peacefully protest against President Nicolás Maduro.

López was being sought by authorities for allegedly inciting violence during protests last week in which three people were killed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## France

### Man arrested in 2012 French Alps shooting deaths

French police detained a 48-year-old man Tuesday in the first French arrest linked to the shooting deaths of a British-Iraqi and three others in the French Alps nearly 18 months ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Bangkok

### Attempt by police to clear protest sites turns deadly

Gun battles broke out Tuesday as hundreds of riot police made their strongest attempt to clear anti-government protest sites around Thailand's capital, leaving at least four people dead and 64

others injured.

Multiple gunshots were heard near the prime minister's offices, where riot police had started to remove protesters and dismantle a makeshift stage. Witnesses said a grenade was thrown at the police and shots were then fired by both sides.

The police withdrew after a series of clashes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Riot police fire on protesters in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday. WALLY SANTANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## The Ford show. Mayor offended when people call him homophobic

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said in a YouTube video released Tuesday that he's offended by claims he's homophobic, while his city councillor brother suggested people in the gay community are "bullies."

The brothers made the comments in the second instalment of their online "Ford Nation" show, consisting of a series of clips of varying lengths in which they slag fellow councillors and take one question.

The query appears to have come via email from "Mary from Scarborough," who is identified as the mother of a gay son. She referenced Ford's stance against a rainbow flag at city hall and recent comments about not attending the annual pride parade.

Ford read the question, in



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is questioned by reporters as he returns to the council floor at city hall in Toronto last month.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

which "Mary" suggested Ford is homophobic and asked why people should vote for him if he doesn't support all citizens. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Calgary. Parents face murder charges after neglecting son: Police

Police say they expect to lay murder charges against the parents of a 15-year-old boy who died from diabetes complications.

Investigators in Calgary said Tuesday that the couple did not provide proper medical treatment for their son.

Police allege that the boy was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes several years ago, when the family lived in British Columbia, and his parents had been taught how to treat him with insulin. When his health declined, investigators say he was confined to his room.

Police were called to a home in Calgary last May and found his body.

Staff Sgt. Grant Miller with the homicide unit wouldn't provide details of the boy's condition when he was discovered, but described it as "extreme."

"This boy has suffered from long-term neglect to the point that he was unable to seek medical attention on his own," Miller said.

He said tests later revealed the teen died of a bacterial infection stemming from neglect and starvation due to his diabetes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

### South Carolina

#### Woman jailed after failing to return video tape

It was not a pile of late fees a South Carolina woman got when a video store owner said she failed to return a video she rented in 2005. Instead, she spent a night in jail. Twenty-seven-year-old Kayla Michelle Finley of Pickens was arrested last week and charged with failing to return a rented video cassette.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Concerns

#### Medical pot program being abused: RCMP

The RCMP says there is an overwhelming temptation for growers of medical marijuana to supplement their income under the current system by selling extra pot. In an affidavit filed in the Federal Court of Canada, RCMP Cpl. Shane Holmquist says investigations have revealed various abuses of the medical marijuana program.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Home brew program helps alcohol addicts

**Vancouver.** The Drug Users Resource Centre offers a program where severe alcoholics can make home brew



EMILY JACKSON  
Metro in Vancouver

Instead of sitting back while illicit drinkers poison themselves with high-alcohol products like Listerine and hand sanitizer, a Vancouver non-profit decided to help them get away from the products no human is meant to ingest.

The Portland Hotel Society — yes, the same folks that made headlines around the world last week for crack pipe vending machines — offers a program where severe alcoholics can make home brew at its Drug Users Resource Centre located across from Oppenheimer Park, a green space where some of the problem drinkers congregate during the day.

Called the "drinkers lounge," members in the year-old program must attend weekly meetings to be eligible to brew their own booze, said Mark Townsend of the PHS.

If people attend the meetings to discuss health, learn CPR and get help with treatment plans, they can then contribute \$10 to buy a brew kit with four others.

"We want there to be a commitment to education and the group to be a positive



The Drug Users Resource Centre in the Downtown Eastside uses innovative ways to reduce harm, including a polka-dotted crack pipe vending machine that made headlines around the world. EMILY JACKSON/METRO IN VANCOUVER

influence," Townsend said. "We don't want to just randomly hand out stuff."

About 30 people are involved in brewing, with another 60 enrolled just for the meetings.

Outside of the club, the centre has a hydration team that goes out twice a day to places where illicit drinkers hang out to check on them, encourage them to drink water or juice and bring them back to the centre.

It's a pragmatic, self-funded initiative that helps a very small group of people (there's an estimated 200 illicit drinkers) who, if left on the streets to ingest substances like hair-spray, often have negative interactions with police or end up in hospital, Townsend said.

While initiatives like this and the crack pipe vending machine tend to grab headlines, they're all part of how the PHS reduces harm in a

cost effective way. It also provides detox, banking services and housing.

"All these things fit in the same basket of intervention," Townsend said, noting that managed alcohol programs have been underway with doctor supervision at one of its social housing sites for eight years. This program simply targets people who are more transient, he said, and there has been no push back at all since it started.

## Charlotte's Web: A pot strain for seizures?



In this Feb. 7 photo, Matt Figi hugs and tickles his once severely-ill seven-year-old daughter Charlotte.

BRENNAN LINSLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The doctors were out of ideas to help Charlotte Figi, then five.

Suffering from a rare genetic disorder, she had as many as 300 grand mal seizures a week, used a wheelchair, went into repeated cardiac arrest and could barely speak. As a last resort, her mother began calling medical marijuana shops.

Two years later, Charlotte is largely seizure-free and able to walk, talk and feed herself after taking oil infused with a special pot strain. Her recovery has inspired both a name for the strain of marijuana she takes that is bred not to make users

high — Charlotte's Web — and an influx of families with seizure-stricken children to Colorado from states that ban the drug.

"She can walk, talk; she ate chili in the car," her mother, Paige Figi, said as her dark-haired daughter strolled through a cavernous greenhouse full of marijuana plants that will later be broken down into their anti-seizure components and mixed with olive oil so patients can consume them. "So I'll fight for whoever wants this."

Doctors warn there is no

proof that Charlotte's Web is effective, or even safe.

In the frenzy to find the drug, there have been reports of non-authorized suppliers offering bogus strains of Charlotte's Web. In one case, a doctor said, parents were told they could replicate the strain by cooking marijuana in butter. Their child went into heavy seizures.

"We don't have any peer-reviewed, published literature to support it," Dr. Larry Wolk, the state health department's chief medical officer, said of Charlotte's Web.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**





Stalking prey on the savannah? Nope. Jagger the serval cat is on his daily outing in the Regina suburb where he lives. His owners say they're prepared to move out of province to keep their pet, if need be. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO IN REGINA

# A killer in the family

## Jagger the serval cat.

A Regina couple talks about their devotion to an African feline

ALYSSA MCDONALD  
Metro in Regina

As Kim Shaheen takes his nightly walk around his suburban Regina neighbourhood, there are lots of smiles, some stares and a few questions.

And they are all focused on the African serval cat on a harness with Shaheen.

For many, the animal — the smallest out of the African cat family — is usually not the first thing that comes to mind when choosing a new pet.

But for Shaheen and his wife, Pam, a couple from Regina with three grown children, it was the perfect way to round out their family.

The 30-pound pet, named Jagger, has four litter boxes, regularly plays fetch in the park behind the house and sleeps in the same bed as the couple.

"It's like having a four-year-old that is never going to grow up," Shaheen told Metro from his living room in north-

Visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca) to watch a video of Jagger in action.



east Regina. "It's a pet that you get so close to because they are so dependant on you," added Pam.

Jagger is so much a part of the family that when the couple found out in November 2012 — roughly seven months after they got the baby animal from a breeder in B.C. — that the province might not allow them to keep

him, they started planning a move. "He's got no claws, he's never let out on his own (and he's fixed so he is not going to change the environment, so I am not quite sure what the issue is," Pam said, adding that the city has no problem with the pet, just the province.

The pair say that serval cats get attached to their owners and once separated, the pet will go so far as to starve itself instead of living without its family. That's why, for the Shaheens, choosing to get Jagger was not a rash decision but rather a 20-year commitment — and even a letter

from provincial government officials asking them to voluntarily remove Jagger from the province would not stand in their way.

"(He's) a family member. We can't give him up," said Shaheen, adding that the city was far more accommodating. It was easy to register their exotic cat. "We are his pride ... even when we are not here for a few days, he gets depressed."

"They bond with one family for life," said Pam.

So the couple has embraced living with their larger-than-life pet, taking him to schools and seniors homes

for visits and watching him play with the family dog and cat. And not minding when he jumps up on the kitchen counters and costs them roughly \$300 a month in "food and whatever he breaks."

Kim Shaheen  
cuddles his pet  
serval cat, Jagger.

ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO  
IN REGINA



## Day 1: Exotic pets in Canada

After two New Brunswick boys were killed last year by an escaped African rock python, we wanted to understand why so many Canadians bring exotic — and sometimes lethal — animals into their homes and lives. What are the costs involved in caring for such critters? How many of these pets are illegal? And what happens when it all goes wrong?

- **Thursday.** Escape the clutch of a Burmese python and hear what the Ikea monkey's former owner has to say about having wild friends.
- **Friday.** Metro goes shopping for an opossum, and explains what to do when you have trouble with your pet fox.





Vern Ruml's 16-foot-long, 200-pound Burmese python named Abu poses with Ruml's girlfriend, Becky Girard. Abu was born in Ruml's home near Winnipeg in 1999. Ruml legally owns a dozen reptiles, and he's concerned about the welfare of animals that are smuggled into Canada. VERN RUMI

# Why do people buy exotic pets? Some say love, others say ego



ISTOCK

**Opposing camps.** Folks on either side of the ownership debate weigh in on the point of it all

ALYSSA MCDONALD  
Metro in Regina

When exotic pets make headlines, it's usually not for a good reason — generally, the story involves beasts who have escaped, have injured someone or been seized by officials as smugglers try to bring them into the country.

That can lead to a lot of head-shaking. Why, people wonder, does anyone want to obtain such creatures in the first place?

"I think for some people it's the challenge, but number one and foremost, it's for the love of the animal," said Scott Shoemaker, who acts as the director of Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership, a pro-position U.S. lobby group.

Shoemaker owns tigers, African cats and cougars, and said he does it because of the connections he's established with his pets.

"There are a lot of people who buy these animals and they love them," agreed Rob Laidlaw of Zoocheck, an organization that's on the other side of the exotic pet ownership debate. "They swear by what they are doing, are committed to it and defend it, and every once in a while someone gets killed by their pet."

Since exotic animals tend to

be so much work, and some are potentially lethal, owners who are not dedicated to such pets tend to get rid of them, which can cause problems if the animals are simply let back into the wild.

Laidlaw said that a variety of influences, including television shows featuring odd creatures, can prompt people to obtain an unusual pet. "People do just

buy animals on an impulse. They don't know what they are getting into," said Laidlaw. "They acquire the animal, get attached to the animal right away and end up keeping it." But he also maintains that some people want exotic pets because of the ego boost involved. "I always use the expression, 'Give a nobody a cougar on a leash, they become a somebody,'" he said.

But Shoemaker maintains that's not the reason people end up keeping such pets. "The commitment is 10 to 20 years, especially for a bigger cat. After the first couple of times it poops on your floor, it's no longer cool — it's some work," said Shoemaker.

"(People) may get into it because of that, but they don't stay in it because it's cool."

## Quoted

"I always use the expression, 'Give a nobody a cougar on a leash, they become a somebody.'"

Rob Laidlaw of Zoocheck

## \* Buyer beware: Your scaly friend might not get into the country

There's the debate over whether exotic animals are safe to keep as pets — and then, there's the question of whether they're even legal to bring into Canada in the first place.

"We're seeing more traffic of exotic pets," Lyle Saigeon, executive director of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's fish and wildlife branch, told Metro.

"The problem is that the exotic pet trade becomes kind of a global thing. And certainly, a lot of exotic animals are being brought into Saskatchewan, or other places in Canada, (through) online pet stores."

The continuing rapid increase in online pet sales has made purchasing animals foreign to Canada far easier than it used to be.

Saigeon points out that it's "kind of a buyer-beware thing" as to whether the would-be pet is legal to own in Canada, or in any particular province or city — and therefore, whether the snake, lizard, monkey or mongoose can even cross the border in a box or by some other means and reach the purchaser's property.

If the creature is endangered, he said, "the federal government would not let something like that into

the country. But if it's coming across in a box, a lot of times it's not caught. And that's certainly the case for a lot of smaller animals."

Vern Ruml, who legally owns a dozen reptiles including a Burmese python, boa constrictors and an alligator snapping turtle at his home near Winnipeg, is concerned about transactions and transport of foreign animals.

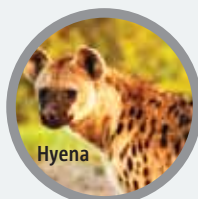
"If they're not allowed, isn't the only way to get them here to smuggle them?" said Ruml, who operated the Ruml's Reptiles educational enterprise in Manitoba until about a decade ago.

"That shouldn't happen. If an animal isn't supposed to be somewhere, it shouldn't be there. Because ultimately, it's the animal that suffers. Not the person." ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

\* If you're uneasy about buying pets online, then you're better off going to a local pet store where it's more likely that the pets for sale are legal in a particular jurisdiction, advises Lyle Saigeon, executive director of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's fish and wildlife branch.

## So, where can't I own a wolverine?

The rules around exotic animal ownership in Canada are mostly a patchwork of provincial and municipal laws. Here are just some of the creatures you can't keep in various jurisdictions across the country.



Hyena

### Pets prohibited in Toronto include:

- Canidae (such as coyotes, wolves, hybrid wolf dogs) except dogs
- Chiroptera (bats such as fruit bats, myotis, flying foxes)
- Felidae (such as tigers, leopards, cougars) except cats
- Hyenidae (such as hyenas)
- Marsupials (such as kangaroos, opossums, wallabies) except sugar gliders derived from self-sustaining captive populations
- Mustelidae (such as skunks, weasels, otters, badgers) except ferrets
- Primates (such as gorillas, monkeys, lemurs)
- All venomous and poisonous animals

### Pets prohibited in Saskatoon include:

- All bats
- All Crocodylians
- All hyenas
- All Arachnids dangerous to humans, except tarantulas of the genera Aphonopelma, Avicularia and Grammostola
- Canidae, except the domestic dog
- All Edentates (such as anteaters, sloths and armadillos)
- All Marsupials (such as kangaroos and opossums)
- Primates (such as gorillas and monkeys)
- All Pinnipeds (such as seals, fur seals and walruses)



Walrus



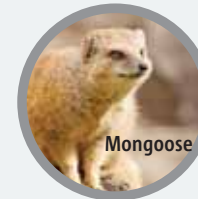
Wild boar

### Pets prohibited in Nova Scotia include:

- Wild boar
- Prairie dogs
- All Hyenidae (hyenas)
- All Ursidae (bears)
- All Cervidae (deer)
- All Primates
- All Pteropodidae (bats)
- Canidae, except the domestic dog
- Felidae, except the domestic cat
- All Crocodylians (such as alligators and crocodiles)
- All Procyonidae (such as raccoons, coatis and cacomistles)
- All Viverridae (such as mongooses, civets and genetis)
- All venomous animals (including those with toxin removed)

### Pets prohibited in Winnipeg include:

- All bears, including polar, grizzly, brown and black bears
- All fur bearing animals of the family Mustelidae, including weasel, badger, skunk, otter, wolverine, except the domestic ferret
- All Procyonidae, including raccoon, kinkajou, cacomistle, cat-bear, panda and coati mundi
- All carnivorous mammals of the family Viverridae, including, but not limited to, civet, mongoose and genet
- Primates, including but not limited to monkey, ape, chimpanzee, gorilla and lemur



Mongoose

ISTOCK PHOTOS



# DR. WHITAKER



## Do you want to maintain your eyesight?



### Protect yourself against cataracts and age-related macular degeneration.

The leading cause of blindness in older people is age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which results in the loss of central vision and the ability to see fine details. AMD is primarily triggered by a lifetime of free-radical damage, so the best way to protect your eyes is to make sure they have an abundant supply of targeted antioxidants.

Cataracts are another common problem associated with aging.



More than half of all North Americans in their 80s either have cataracts or have had surgery to replace the clouded lens. Not surprisingly, the same nutrients that protect against AMD have also been shown to help stave off cataracts.

NEW Vision Essentials with lutein, beta-carotene, ginkgo biloba, lycopene, black currant and 10 other nutrients helps reduce the risk of developing cataracts and helps to maintain eyesight in conditions such as cataracts and age-related macular degeneration.

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Super Natural Foods 902-454-9999

Health Basket 902-462-3765

Healthy Selections 902-832-7511

To Find A Store Near You go to **PNO.CA**

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metro

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metronews.ca  
Wednesday, February 19, 2014

# This time it's not Putin doing the censoring in Sochi

**Image control.** The International Olympic Committee is strictly enforcing blackout of non-official sponsors

**Open to change**

During the Sochi Olympics, the athletes can't let their images be used for any commercial advertising. The blackout applies from nine days before the opening ceremony until three days after the closing — from Jan. 30 to Feb. 26.

Want to see the glasses and goggles that aerial skier Lydia Lassila and snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis wore at the Sochi Olympics? If you go to the website of the company that manufactures their eyewear, you might be in for a shock.

On the Australian section of Bolle.com, photos of Lassila, Jacobellis and other competitors at the Sochi Games have been digitally blurred to obscure their faces.

This isn't a throwback to the days when Soviet propaganda chiefs airbrushed people out of photos. It's an extreme application of regulations meant to make sure that companies such as Bollé, which do not sponsor the Olympics, don't get to advertise off the back of them.

So the Olympics are a Pep-

si-free zone, because Coca-Cola is an Olympic sponsor. In Sochi's Olympic Park, only Visa cards work for payments or in ATMs, again because Visa is a sponsor. At one Sochi venue, an Olympic worker even slapped a white sticker over the Dell logo on a journalist's laptop, because the computer manufacturer isn't an Olympic sponsor.

For Olympians, the dense and confusing thicket of rules severely restricting advertising is a serious issue.

In theory, Olympians could be disqualified if they use the games to plug non-approved brands. The International Olympic Committee even holds athletes responsible for how their sponsors behave outside the Olympic bubble. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



## Will investors be sweet on Candy Crush Saga?

This screenshot shows Candy Crush Saga. King Digital Entertainment PLC, maker of the maddeningly addictive mobile game, is planning to raise up to \$500 million from an initial public offering of its common stock. The company did not disclose how many shares are expected in the IPO or the projected price range. **CANDY CRUSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

### Market Minute



**DOLLAR**  
91.32¢  
(+0.27¢)

**Natural gas:** \$5.57 US (+\$0.19)  
**Dow Jones:** 16,130.40 (-23.99)



**TSX**  
14,077.47 (+22.71)



**OIL**  
\$102.43 US (+\$2.13)



**GOLD**  
\$1,324.40 US (+\$5.80)

### A new chapter

## Wikipedia turns page, with books

Thanks to a crowd-funding campaign, Wikipedia is set to publish a set of printed books covering more than four million English-language articles. **METRO**



# PUPPET MASTER PULLS HIS LAST STRING

Who's your favourite Muppet?

C'mon, I know you have one. Most people probably go with Miss Piggy, Kermit, Big Bird or Elmo.

Or maybe Bert & Ernie. There's an iconic New Yorker cover from the summer of Bert snuggling with Ernie, watching TV as the U.S. Supreme Court upholds gay marriage.

But I digress.

You can tell a lot about someone from his or her favourite Muppet. If you're a regular reader you're probably not surprised that I favour the wacky fringe Muppets (especially purple fringe), non-specific species such as Cookie Monster, Animal, Gonzo and the Swedish Chef.

And the Yeppers, multi-headed long-necked beasts that only say "Yep." The Yeppers get me every time.

But my favourite Muppet, hands down (pardon the puppet joke), is Sweetums. Sweetums is a nine-foot, hairy ogre with a big red nose and sharp teeth. Of course, like every Muppet, he's completely



**JUST SAYIN'**  
**Paul Sullivan**  
metronews.ca

harmless, except if you're Kermit.

Sweetums is notorious for turning up whenever Kermit's around and announcing: "Sweetums eat frog now!" then giving chase. It's worth noting that in Muppetland, Kermit is still very much alive.

Which sadly, is not the case with Kermit and Sweetums' creator, Jim Henson, who died a tragic early death at 53 in 1990. Now his son John, a frequent Sweetums puppeteer and voice, has died of a heart attack at 48.

Jim Henson's death was particularly bizarre. He thought he had the flu, but very quickly became gravely ill and died of streptococcal toxic shock syndrome. Jim's wife and John's mother Jane died last year, suffering from cancer and paralysis, at 78.

John, who grew up in the family business, is re-

membered as an artist with an eye for detail, which he inherited from his dad.

It is a sad irony that this family who brought so much joy to the world has experienced so much suffering.

The family business will continue, but with John's death, I wonder if it will continue to be centred in the sly, generous satire that has elevated the Muppets beyond mere foolery. Like Fraggle Rock, which Henson produced in Toronto for a syndicate that included the CBC. Fraggle Rock was populated by a ridiculous sub-species called the Doozers: green, six-inch, dough-like creatures complete with hard hats who tirelessly and mindlessly erected structures that the Fraggles would absent-mindedly break off and snack on, which didn't faze the Doozers, as it kept them gainfully employed. A wonderfully wry and ridiculous commentary on relationships, mindful or otherwise.

The Muppets may be the only show with built-in critics, Statler and Waldorf, two irascible old grouches who sit in the balcony and carp amusingly about the proceedings.

So there's more to the Muppets than the letter A or the number 1. In fact even the number 1 comes with a purple vampire, Count von Count, who "loves to count."

I hope there's a heaven. Of course, if there isn't, the Hensons will just build it and populate it with the marvellous products of their remarkable imaginations. They're that good.

## ZOOM

### Does this look familiar?



JOE PEPLER/REX

#### It's really not as high as it looks

What's this, London's under siege from savage-looking marauders? No, silly, it's just The Wall from the hit series Game of Thrones. HBO commissioned artists 3D Joe and Max to recreate the famed 480-kilometres-long and 215-metres-tall wall, in Bishop's Square, to celebrate the release of season three on DVD and Blu-ray. **METRO**

#### Get your climbing crampons on

The Wall, protected by the Night's Watch, keeps the evil White Walkers at bay. Londoners are encouraged to "scale" the wall like character Jon Snow. Fans of the U.S.-owned HBO program, who would prefer to stay in the comfort of their own home, haven't got long to wait for season four of the show, which is due to air in early April. **METRO**

#### Artists' view

"We knew we had to do something really special to match the sheer scale of this phenomenal TV show that has swept the globe."

Joe Hill, founder of 3D Joe and Max

#### Clickbait



**LUKE SIMCOE**  
Metro Online



GETTY IMAGES

With news that athletes are using Tinder to hook up in Sochi's Olympic Village, it seems we've reached a peak in dating apps. There are now a host of apps that fuse technology and flirting, letting you find partners based on location, dietary preferences or how many mutual connections you have on LinkedIn. However, if you find yourself bored, give these hookup apps a spin.

#### Wingman:

Billing itself as Tinder for the mile-high club, this app lets you flirt with your fellow airplane passengers. The app has yet to launch, but it promises to work over Bluetooth, just in case your 3G service conks out at 30,000 feet.

#### Kimye:

This iPhone dating simulator puts you inside Kanye's leather jogging pants as

he tries to woo Kim Kardashian. Options include dropping a new record to get her attention.

#### Spreadsheets:

If you've ever found yourself exclaiming that your sex life needs more data analysis, then this cleverly-titled app is for you. Using your phone's microphone and accelerometer, the app determines how successful your coital encounter was.

#### Twitter

@metropicks asked: Russia's panties are in a twist over lacy lingerie trade ban. What type of clothing would you ban?

@igor\_mariano: crocs

@Canucklehead\_ca: Speedos. Oh, and whatever this is called - the Borat?

@GeeDubayou: UGGs and yoga pants.

@Mystz: anything from the 80's! :-P

@Metro\_DK: Skinny jeans with the arse hanging to the ground. #ban-them

@EvanDentremont: yoga pants if

not actually doing yoga. Likewise for hockey jerseys.

@mtlkeith: 70,s leisure wear. :(((

@CJBondo: I think the real article deserving a ban are the pants sported by the Russian curling team.

@WillyRBeek: anything and everything with the Montreal Canadians logo printed on it.

@sarahrhbeichi: cargo shorts, yuck

@ctmwyn: I'd gladly bid farewell to leggings as pants. #BuhByeOver-sharers

**Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.**

#### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: [halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca)



# SCENE 2

## Pompeii actioner latest flick to rake over the ancient ashes

### Rebirth of Vesuvius.

It's the volcanic mount that keeps on erupting, as Resident Evil director offers up his sword-and-sandal take



IN  
FOCUS  
Richard Crouse  
scene@metronews.ca

It's said the people of Pompeii regarded the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. with "a response more of curiosity than of alarm." The volcano had burped and belched as many as 50 times over the years, so most of the city's 20,000 citizens didn't pay attention when Vesuvius started to gurgle.

Perhaps they were too busy visiting one of the city's many brothels — like a proto-Las Vegas, this was the richest city of ancient times, ripe with amenities and vice — or enjoying their lunches of broad beans, olives, dormice (plumped up by chefs in terracotta jars) or even garum, made from the first blood of a still-gasping mackerel, to detect the cloud of deadly volcanic ash headed their way.

By the end of the day the dust "poured across the land," claiming 2,000 lives. Buried beneath, "a darkness... like the black of closed and unlighted rooms." The remains of Pompeii and its people were preserved, left untouched for two millennia.

Today the ancient city of Pompeii is one of the most



Paul W.S. Anderson's Pompeii burns with love as a slave-turned-gladicator tries to save his girl from eternal preservation. CONTRIBUTED

### Sending up the doom and gloom

"I say, Lurcio, how did my speech go?"

"Master, you brought the house down!"

Conversation between emperor and servant in the 1971 comedy Up Pompeii.

popular attractions in Italy, drawing almost three million tourists annually. But if you can't make it to the Italian region of Campania, a new movie aims to recreate the experience for you.

Pompeii stars Kit Harington, Carrie-Anne Moss, Emily

Browning and Kiefer Sutherland in a love story about a slave-turned-gladicator (Harington) who must rescue his beloved, Cassia (Browning), before a rolling mountain of lava and ash dooms her to the ages.

The big action adventure take on the story directed by

Resident Evil helmer Paul W.S. Anderson has an ancestor in The Last Days of Pompeii, a 1913 silent sword-and-sandal movie based on the Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton novel of the same name. That book has been remade eight times.

The most famous version came in 1959. The big budget CinemaScope production was to have been directed by Mario Bonnard, but when he fell ill on the first day of shooting, screenwriter Sergio Leone (who would go on to make classics like The Good, the Bad and the Ugly) stepped in. It's big on

pageantry, just as the advertising taglines would suggest. It's a "Fiery Summit of Spectacle," the posters screamed, promising an inside look at, "the City that Lived in Sin and Died in Flame!"

Certainly it's more puffed-up than Up Pompeii, a 1971 Frankie Howerd comedy that featured a speech by emperor Ludicrus Sextus during Vesuvius' eruption.

"I say, Lurcio, how did my speech go?" he asks his servant as the city crumbles.

"Master, you brought the house down!"

## MBA Information Session

February 26, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Secunda Boardroom, 4th Floor, Sobey Building,  
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Register by calling Joan, 420-5002, or email [mba@smu.ca](mailto:mba@smu.ca)

[sobey.smu.ca/mba](http://sobey.smu.ca/mba)





Melissa Joan Hart ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## Sabrina the Teenage Witch star says she was wild at Hart, just never got caught

When she was a teen star, Melissa Joan Hart enjoyed a fairly squeaky-clean image, but now she admits it was just easier to hide things back then. "It wasn't that I wasn't a bad girl or that I was too much of a good girl, it was that I never got caught," the former Sabrina, the Teenage Witch star explains to Giuliana Rancic in an interview. For example? The night before her first photo shoot for Maxim magazine, Hart let her hair down in a big way. "You're in underwear, so I was feeling a little shy. I actually ended

up rolling with some friends, doing ecstasy and going in a limo to my first Playboy Mansion party," she says. And she also admits that she found then-17-year-old co-star Ryan Reynolds a bit too hard to resist when they filmed the Sabrina, the Teenage Witch TV movie — especially after Reynolds gave her a Bulova watch as a wrap gift. "I chased him down, got in front of his car and just kissed him and then made out with him all night. Then I had to call my boyfriend the next day and explain it," she says.



Robert Pattinson

## Tired of playing the fame game, Twilight star talks theatre and indie flicks

Looks like Shia LaBeouf has some company, as Twilight star Robert Pattinson "doesn't want to be famous anymore," a friend of the actor tells Radar Online. "The cost of fame is the thing he and (ex-girlfriend) Kristen (Stewart) used to complain about all day, that hasn't changed at all for him" since their split. So Pattinson

"is looking at a whole new approach to his future and is even considering going to theatre school," the pal claims. "Rob's been talking to a lot of independent filmmakers, and the last thing he wants to do is act in another blockbuster. He would like to direct a movie one day." Because directors, of course, aren't famous.

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

### The Word



## Look what the Cat dragged in: Ariana Grande to duet with Chris Brown

MELINDA TAUB

Metro World News

Today in terrible ideas: Pop starlet Ariana Grande is apparently recording a duet with dreadful human Chris Brown. The two teased their fans on Twitter with what appear to be lyrics from an upcoming collaboration:

**"I dug a single seed into the ground, I hope it grows"**

— Chris Brown (@chrisbrown) Feb. 16, 2014

**"in a year or two if you're around, you'll see a rose"**  
— Ariana Grande (@Ariana-Grande) Feb. 16, 2014

After a fan inquired, Ariana confirmed that it's an upcoming song.

Why anyone would think this could be good for Ariana's career is beyond me. The star of Nickelodeon's Sam & Cat, who has such a squeaky clean image that she regularly wears a bow in her hair without a whiff of irony, should not be anywhere near Rihanna-battering human rage ball Chris Brown. Both for career reasons and for her personal safety.

On the bright side, judging by those lyrics, the song will be very bad, so at least I won't have to feel guilty about wanting to download it.



Jennifer Aniston

## Aniston says domo arigato but no arigato to Japan

Japanese fans of Jennifer Aniston are just going to make do with viewing their idol from afar, at least until the country does something about its dolphin-hunting practises, according to Radar Online. "Jen travels the world to promote her films, but there's a strong exception — and that's going

to Japan," a source close to the actress says. "She doesn't allow herself to be contractually required to travel to Japan because of that country's policies toward fishing and specifically the treatment of dolphins. She has vowed not to go to Japan until the country's policies change."



Madonna

## Belgium waffles no more — thaws Madonna's Frozen

Good news, Belgium! You can finally listen to Madonna's 1998 single Frozen again. The track was banned from being purchased or played in Belgium in November 2005 after Madonna lost a copyright infringement lawsuit brought by Belgian songwriter Acquaviva, who claimed the track used the intro to his 1979 song Ma Vie Fout

L'camp without permission, according to the Bulletin. But a second lawsuit brought by composer Edouard Scotto Di Succio claiming that both Madonna and Acquaviva had actually ripped off his song Bloodnight prompted authorities to re-examine the case, and they've now determined that no sufficient plagiarism took place in either instance.

### Twitter



@ABFalecbaldwin

To think that the place I want to move to is called Jerónimos.



@mindykaling

If I was blind I could tell who the hot girls in the nail salon were by how boring their stories are



@pattonoswalt

Hey guys, 1995 called and...oh God. It's become self-aware! THE YEAR 1995 IS SELF-AWARE & SENTIENT. (gunshot)



3  
LIFE

# Stay on track on your Euro trip

**Quick jaunt.** By taking advantage of Europe's high-speed train system, you can cram in three great cities in less than a week

KAREN KWAN  
life@metronews.ca

With detailed planning and travelling by high-speed train, you can fit in the top sights in Madrid, Barcelona and Paris in less than one week — leaving you with vacation days for another holiday.

## Day one

Check into the 19th-century-palace-turned-boutique-hotel Único Madrid, then get your retail fix right in this upscale neighbourhood, Salamanca. At the Museo del Prado, see works from Goya, Velázquez and Rembrandt, then next door, enjoy more than 30,000 plants and flowers at Real Jardín Botánico de Madrid. For dinner, walk from Único to Oter Epicure (order the melt-in-your-mouth Iberico ham).

## Day two

Spend a quiet morning at the leafy Parque del Retiro. For a tapas lunch (pimientos de padron and tortilla, anyone?), hit up Mercado de San Miguel. Take the subway to Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas for a self-guided tour of this



Catch a sunset in Barcelona on your whirlwind tour. MOYAN BRENN/FICKR

historic bullfighting ring. Snap some requisite photos in Plaza Mayor, the square at the centre of the city, then tour Palacio Real, where the grand decor and paintings from Giordano, Tiepolo and Velázquez will make you want to live like royalty.

## Day three

With your Eurail pass — which connects trains run by national train operators in 27 European countries — go to Atocha station, and take a moment to take in its stunning tropical garden. Hop on a high-speed train (some of which can travel as fast as 355 km/hr) and arrive two and a half hours later in Barcelona. Drop your bags at the modern Hotel Indigo.



Get your retail fix with shopping in Madrid. MOYAN BRENN/FICKR

Stroll pedestrian boulevard La Rambla. When peckish, stop at La Boqueria market for warm mushroom salad and pulpo gallega. Fit in one Gaudi site — Parc Güell if it's nice out or Casa Batlló if the

weather is inclement.

## Day four

Head to La Sagrada Família early to beat the crowds at this unfinished Gaudi masterpiece. Afterwards,

## More info

To plan your trip or get more information on the Eurail Pass, visit [eurail.com](http://eurail.com).

take the metro to Barceloneta. Grab a seafood lunch in this fisherman's quarter, then stroll down Passeig Joan de Borbó and kick back for the rest of the day at Platja de la Barceloneta.

## Day five

Board a Paris-bound high-speed train with your Eurail pass and arrive six and a half hours later. Check into the conveniently located Millennium Hotel Paris Opéra. Grab a bite at Café Diane in the pretty Tuileries Garden, then with a list of your must-see pieces of art in hand, make a quick visit to the Louvre.

## Day six

A quick stop by the Eiffel Tower is a must, non? Afterwards, if it's Wednesday or Sunday, pick up delicious provisions at nearby Marché du Pont de l'Alma. From here, take a Bateau Mouche ride for a fantastic view of the city. Next, walk the crooked narrow streets in Le Marais and stumble upon historic buildings, including the beautiful Place des Vosges. At night, a drink in the buzzy Saint-Germain-des-Près neighbourhood at Les Deux Magots or Café de Flore will complete your quickie trip.

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# Havana nods to its glitzy gangster past with hotel reno

**Capri Hotel.** The place where Mafiosi rested their weary heads gets a facelift for tourists

In its heyday, Havana's Capri hotel and casino was the playground of men known as The Blade and The Fat Butcher. It was also a pleasure garden for headline stars who portrayed Mafiosi on the silver screen: George Raft, known for hoodlum roles such as Guino Rinaldo in 1932's *Scarface*, was the casino's celebrity "greeter" and made his home in the 19th-floor penthouse.

Havana's hedonistic mob-and-movie-star days came to an end with Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, and the hotel drifted into a long, slow decline. But now the Capri is back in business after being closed more than a decade ago. Its rebirth is part of Cuba's latest bid to trade on its colourful pre-Communist



The Capri Hotel has been restored to its former glory. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

past and attract tourist dollars to fund its socialist present.

"It's a feeling of that era (at the Capri). I think in Cuba you feel that in general," said Roberto Escalante, a 62-year-old Mexican university professor who was staying in the hotel

this month during an academic conference. "It's very comfortable. It's missing some services still, but yes, you feel like you're back in those times — which were good!" Indeed, details such as the Capri's polished, art-deco granite floors with

their flowery bronze inlays fit right into a city that still teems with finned Chevrolet and Cadillac classics. So do the graceful copper-colored lobby chandeliers, which like the floors are restored originals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Deal

### March break planning

Air Transat has a new booking tool called Affinity, where you select your interests, what hotel and room amenities are absolute deal-breakers and where you want to go. Results filter down, down, down as you plug in the data. Visit [airtransat.ca](http://airtransat.ca) and look for Affinity under Packages/Tours. DOUG WALLACE/METRO

## Trend

### Soap recycling

Here's something to think about the next time you scoop hotel shampoos into your suitcase. Florida-based charity Clean the World collects and recycles hotel amenities discarded by the hospitality industry, sending them to shelters and countries in need. Learn how you can help at [cleantheworld.com](http://cleantheworld.com). DOUG WALLACE/METRO

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MEGHAN AGOSTA-MARCIANO DOESN'T

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# Take a walk on the wizard side

**Universal Orlando.** Theme park gets set to launch attractions guaranteed to make muggles happy

DEAN  
LISK

dean.lisk@metronews.ca

What's old is new — or at least re-imagined — again at Universal Orlando Resort in Florida. Many of the park's attractions are getting pop-culture injections and technological facelifts to keep up with visitors' expectations to be amazed, entertained and, of course, well fed.

Central to the park's changes is the recent unveiling of Diagon Alley, the secret London side street only accessible to the wizarding world in Harry Potter. Even muggles — humans without special powers, for anyone not familiar with the world of Potter — can soon shop where Hogwarts students purchase their

school supplies.

Mark Woodbury, vice-president of Universal Creative, gave the Toronto Star and Metro Canada an exclusive Canadian sneak peek behind the closely guarded security fence of the still-under-construction attraction, which opens this summer.

Created by author J.K. Rowling, Diagon Alley is a hidden road in modern London open only to wizards. The tilting buildings in the alley are the setting of some of the most exciting scenes in the Potter series.

"When people come in they are going to have a first impression of something that is totally mind-boggling," said Woodbury.

Still emerging from the sand-covered ground, punctuated by scaffolding, concrete and wiring, is a scaled-down London, complete with Kings Cross and Charing Cross railway stations, Leicester Square and Wyndham's Theatre. Park guests will walk through one of the city's brick walls and into the magical alley — the

details of how are a secret.

Inside the park, visitors will eat at the Leaky Cauldron, visit Ollivanders Wand Shop or buy a novelty item at the Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes. At the far end of the alley is the goblin-operated Gringotts Wizarding Bank; a large fire-breathing dragon will be perched on the roof of the building.

It will also be home to Universal Orlando's newest ride, Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts. "It really brings to life the movie," Woodbury said.

Diagon Alley is the second Harry Potter-related experience at Universal's Orlando parks. In 2010, it opened The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, located in Islands of Adventure, which welcomes visitors to Hogwarts castle and the Scottish mountain village of Hogsmeade.

Park guests will soon be shuttled between the two sites onboard the Hogwarts Express. Leaving King's Cross Station, the train will travel along an elevated track through the concrete build-

ings and paved roads of the anything-but-Potter-like Universal backlot before arriving at the gate of Hogsmeade. Information about the length, time and cost of the trip are as safely guarded as the recipe for butterbeer, a popular drink at The Wizarding World.

Woodbury said special technology, details of which were not part of the announcement, will make passengers think they are travelling through the hedged English countryside and rugged Scottish hills when they look out the train's windows. "Physically it is in the park, but the experience is truly in another place," he said. "It is a dramatic experience."

A spell of change is also being cast at The Wizarding World. Woodbury says Zonko's Joke Shop in Hogsmeade will be incorporated into the soon-to-open Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes in Diagon, giving room for the neighbouring Honeydukes — a sweet shop — to expand.

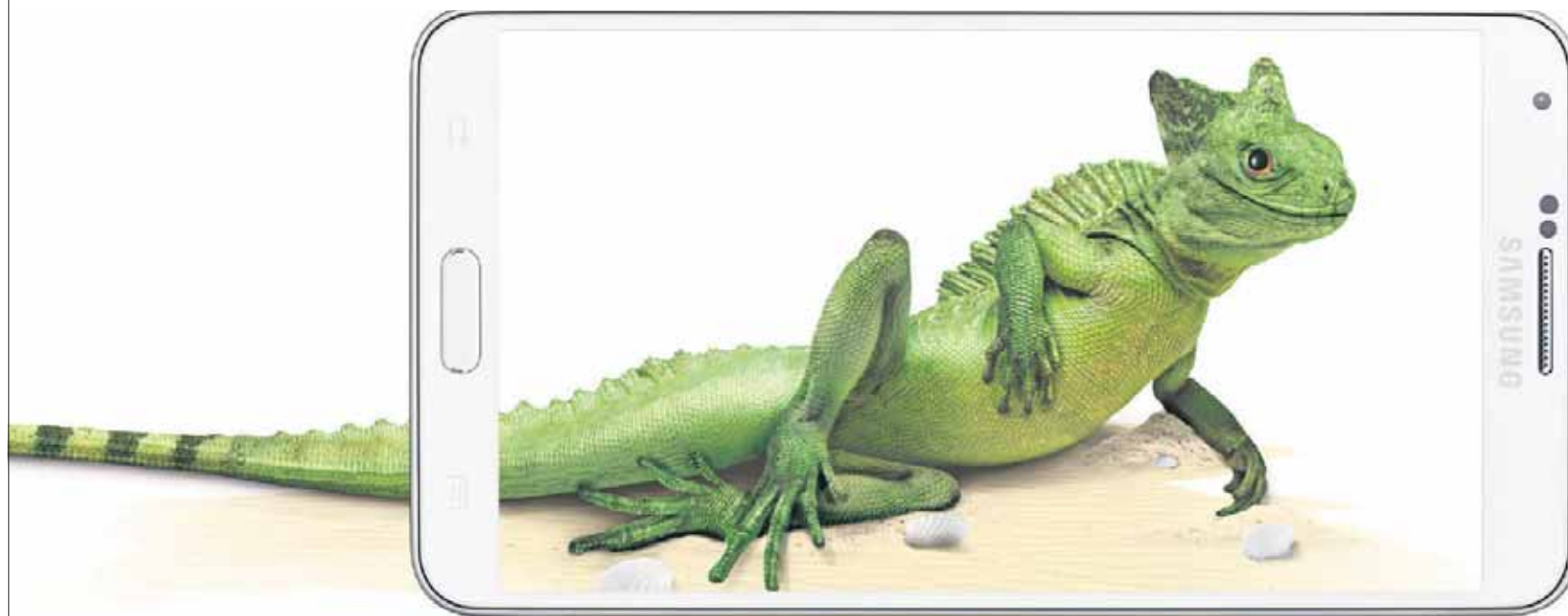
The Potter plans are just the latest in a series of updates to

Online

For more information, visit [universalorlando.com](http://universalorlando.com).

Universal's two parks. When it opened in 1999, the Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man broke new ground with dark-ride tricks and motion simulation. To keep a rider's Spidey sense tingling, it underwent a hi-def redo two years ago.

Over in Springfield (state unknown) U.S.A., resort chef Steven Jayson, who helped bring butterbeer to the masses, has developed a menu of food inspired by the Simpsons TV series. Park visitors can saddle up next to Barney at Moe's Tavern for a Flaming Moe or Duff beer or enjoy a burger at Krusty Burger. Chicken and waffles are a popular choice at Cleatus' Chicken Shack, while Lard Lad Donuts offers pie-sized doughnuts topped in pink icing.



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Guests will be able to stroll down Diagon Alley at Universal this summer. CONTRIBUTED

## A Cabana to call home. New resort a nostalgic riff on the family road trip



Fun for the whole family awaits at the Cabana Bay Beach Resort. CONTRIBUTED

Universal Orlando is recreating the classic family road trip with its newest hotel complex, the Cabana Bay Beach Resort. Located steps from the park, the design was inspired by mid-century hotels such as those in the Wildwood, N.J., historic resort district.

### The property

The north end of the property is slated to open March 31, and features 600 rooms that are spread over three open-corridor buildings, each named after an iconic hotel: the Starlight, Castaway and Thunderbird.

### The pool area

The three buildings surround a 10,000-square-foot pool, with a dive tower-inspired fountain, 17 cabanas and the Atomic Tonic pool bar. The south end of the hotel will feature 1,200 rooms in two seven-story towers with a similar-sized pool area between them.

### Entertainment

A ramp leads from the pool areas of both wings into the upper floor of the main building—avoiding the lobby altogether—where guests will find a fitness centre, games room, bowling alley and cafeteria-style eating at Bayliner Diner.

### Family friendly

The rooms are designed with families in mind. A sliding wall separates the two-bed sleeping area from a small sitting area, complete with a queen size pullout. The bathroom is separated into a toilet, shower and sink area, so multiple family members can get ready at once. The suites also come with a small kitchenette with microwave and fridge.

Cabana Bay Beach Resort will open this summer. A standard room will rent for roughly \$119 US a night, and the suites for \$174 US.

METRO

### Bucket List



### The Mangroves at San Blas, Mexico

Once a prominent Pacific port, this small fishing town of 10,000 between Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta is home to 30 km of beaches, winding estuaries, mangrove swamps and one of the most important natural bird shelters in the Western Hemisphere. In La Tovara National Park, you can find more than 300 different species of birds — pelicans, terns, egrets, blue heron, the works — not to mention ocelots and quite a few crocodiles. A boat tour through the watery maze of vegetation and wildlife will remind you of every prison escape movie ever made. San Blas is also home to the Riviera Nayarit region's unsung hero of Mexican cuisine, chef Betty Vázquez from El Delfin Restaurant.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

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# You don't need an oven for comfort-food perfection

**Slow-Cooked Lasagna.** Prep this before you leave for work and come home to a delicious meal that just needs a salad



**DINNER EXPRESS**  
Emily Richards  
food@metronews.ca

Let your slow cooker do the work and come home to this easy, heartwarming Simple Slow-Cooked Lasagna.

Swap in other greens or cooked vegetables to change things up.

This recipe works best in an oval- or rectangle-shaped

slow cooker. If you're using a round slow cooker, you may need to break up the lasagna sheets a bit more.

1. Lightly spray inside of slow cooker with cooking spray.

2. In nonstick skillet, brown beef, breaking up with spoon. Scrape out beef into a colander and let drain. Wipe out skillet and return to medium heat; cook beef, onion, garlic, oregano and hot pepper flakes 5 minutes

or until softened. Add passata and water and remove from heat.

3. In a bowl, stir together ricotta cheese, spinach, basil and Parmesan cheese.

4. Spread some of the meat sauce over bottom of slow cooker. Lay lasagna noodles in a single layer, breaking as necessary to fit. Top with one quarter of the sauce and one third of the cheese mixture. Repeat layers twice ending with meat sauce on top.



This recipe makes eight servings. HEALTH CANADA

5. Cover the slow cooker and cook on Low for 6 to 8 hours or on High for 3 to 4 hours. About 15 minutes be-

fore serving lasagna, sprinkle mozzarella over top, cover and let cook on Low until melted.

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## Ingredients

- 227 g (8 oz) extra lean ground beef
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced

- 10 ml (2 tsp) dried oregano
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) hot pepper flakes
- 1 jar (700 ml) tomato passata
- 250 ml (1 cup) water

- 1 tub (475 g) 1% cottage or light ricotta cheese
- 1 pkg (142 g/5 oz) baby spinach, chopped

- 60 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh basil or parsley
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) grated Parmesan cheese

- 10 whole wheat or regular lasagna noodles
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) shredded part skim mozzarella

# Mellowing garlic's intensity



Fettuccine with Garlic-Parmesan Puree serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The goal was simple: create the most intense garlic pasta.

But there was a caveat. There is no joy in a dish that reeks of too much garlic, or that is so potent it is inedible. You want a garlic pasta that is deeply savoury, delicious and dripped with garlic flavour in every bite, but pleasantly so and without leaving you feeling overwhelmed.

The solution? A simple sauce made from garlic that is poached and pureed. The

poaching mellows the garlic's intensity, but not its flavour.

Combine the puree with grated Parmesan cheese and a splash of the pasta cooking water and you have a pasta dish that is over-the-top delicious and outrageously garlicky.

This Fettuccine with Garlic-Parmesan Puree calls for 2 cups of garlic cloves. And yet it calls for very little else. You will be amazed at the depth of flavour you get from so few

ingredients.

1. In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, combine the garlic and broth. Bring to a boil and cook for 12 minutes, or until the broth is reduced by half and the garlic is very tender. Transfer the garlic and broth to a blender and puree until smooth. Set aside.

2. Bring pot of salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook

until al dente, 8 to 10 minutes. Reserve 1/4 cup of the pasta cooking water, then drain the pasta and transfer to a large bowl.

3. Pour the garlic puree over the pasta. Using tongs, toss

## Ingredients

- 2 cups garlic cloves, peeled
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 12 oz fettuccine pasta

- 2 cups grated Parmesan cheese, plus extra to serve
- Salt and ground black pepper

the pasta with the sauce, sprinkling in the cheese as you do it. When the cheese is nearly melted, drizzle in enough of the reserved

pasta cooking water to form a smooth sauce. Season with salt and pepper, then serve topped with additional Parmesan. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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# MacKinnon to fans, media: Lay off Crosby

**Cole Harbour connection.** NHL rookie says there's more to Sid the Kid's game than just scoring



**ANDREW RANKIN**  
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

Sidney Crosby may have been held pointless against Nathan MacKinnon and the Colorado Avalanche last October, but the latter knows exactly who dominated that game.

"He didn't get a point but walking away from the rink, everyone knew he was the best player in the league," said MacKinnon of the Pittsburgh Penguins' captain. "He didn't have to score to show that."

"He's so hard to play against, so strong on both sides of the puck. He gets players on their heels so quickly because he's so unpredictable and so talented."

The 18-year-old has watched his fellow Cole Harbour counterpart do the same in Team Canada's first three games of the Olympics, but produce only two assists for his effort. He's heard all of the criticism over Crosby's lack of scoring, and he has some advice for fans and media alike: relax. The Canucks are 3-0 after all.

"He's been playing fine," added MacKinnon, who



Sidney Crosby warms up prior to Canada's game against Austria on Friday in Sochi, Russia. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

## Quoted

**"People are being a little too hard on him for no reason."** Nathan MacKinnon, on criticism of Sidney Crosby.

quarter-final matchup against Latvia on Wednesday, there's no doubt in MacKinnon's mind that Crosby will raise his game as needed.

"When it counts he'll be there. It's pretty tough for

people to comment from their basements or from wherever they're watching the games. It's a lot tougher than you think out there. With that D-corps it's going to be tough for teams to beat them."

MacKinnon, who's the favourite to win the Calder Trophy, couldn't help but think about being part of the hoopla some day.

"Representing Canada at the world juniors was a lot of fun but I can only imagine what it would be like at the Olympics," he said. "There'd be a lot of pressure, but that seems to bring out the best in our Canadian players."

# Drouin's offensive instincts 'second to none'

Like any other fan, Stacy Roest can be dazzled by Jonathan Drouin's most impressive on-ice gift of seemingly making something out of nothing.

The difference is that as Tampa Bay Lightning's director of player development, he's responsible for monitoring the Halifax Mooseheads leading scorer, who also happens to be the Lightning's third overall pick in last year's draft, making him their most promising prospect.

Since September, when Drouin was cut by Tampa Bay and sent back to the Mooseheads, Roest has made the trek north a handful of times to check up on the 18-year-old forward's progress.

His most recent stop arrived last week, where over



Stacy Roest, the Tampa Bay Lightning's director of player development, right, says Jonathan Drouin's offensive instincts "are second to none." METRO FILE; COURTESY OF RAPPERSWIL-JONA LAKERS

four days the pair trained on and off the ice. Roest also got to see Drouin in game action, and was impressed.

"I like the way he gets back and takes care of his own zone and is sticking up for his team-

mates," referring to Drouin's first QMJHL fight in Thursday's home game against the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles.

"But he's developing his two-way game. He's killing penalties, winning faceoffs,

back checking. He's moving more with the puck; he's playing centre now so that helps his game in learning a new position. He's making more plays at higher speeds that you have to do at the NHL level."

As someone who has a wealth of hockey knowledge, having played in the NHL, AHL and overseas, he knows the formidable challenge facing Drouin.

"It was a big adjustment for Jonathan to come back to the Mooseheads where he's used to going to a camp and then always making that team."

"But in his case, as with a lot of our prospects, he's got to get stronger; he's working hard to be a more complete player. But his offensive instincts and stick skills are

second to none."

Drouin says all the work - the video analysis, the faceoff drills, strength training - is paying off.

"Stacy's a great guy to have for any reason, but he knows a lot about the game. As much as I like to focus on offence, defence is the key. If you don't have that, you're not going to play in the NHL."

There's no doubt in Roest's mind that Drouin will be an impact NHL player. It's just a case of when, not if.

"It's a long grind to get to the NHL. There are a lot of people who want to play there and it's a hard league to play in and even harder to stay there. But you keep your head down and keep plugging away."

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

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# Snowstorm no match for Riddle's twists



**Ski halfpipe.** Alberta freestyle skier conquers challenging conditions to win silver medal in Olympic debut of competition

A big blast of winter weather finally arrived at the Sochi Games on Tuesday night, dumping a big helping of thick snow just in time for the Olympic debut of the men's ski halfpipe competition.

The challenging conditions didn't faze Canada's Mike Riddle at all. The veteran freestyle skier stuck with his plan to unveil a new combination for his final run and it helped him win a silver medal.

"I managed to link together some tricks that I haven't done before," Riddle said. "I couldn't be happier with the result."

Riddle hit back-to-back double cork 1260's for the first time — three and-a-half rotations with two twists per trick — and it was enough to wow the judges at Rosa Khutor Ex-

treme Park. The rest of his run was clean and it earned him a score of 90.60 points.

"Just to be here is unbelievable and then to get a medal — I'm speechless," he said.

American David Wise took the gold with a total of 92.00 and Kevin Rolland of France won bronze with 88.60 points. Calgary's Noah Bowman finished fifth while Justin Dorey of Vernon, B.C., missed jumps in both his final runs and ended up 12th.

Riddle won a world title in 2011 and took the overall World Cup crown last season.

"I did have more in the arsenal that I wanted to bring out but conditions made it kind of impossible to maintain speed," he said.

Riddle had reached the top 10 in his last 12 competitions entering the Games. He was sixth after a mediocre first run.

"You had to land really high on the transitions to be able to maintain speed for your next trick in order to link together your run," he said. "So if you weren't perfect, you were done, basically. Every trick had to be pretty much perfect."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mike Riddle of Canada performs a trick in the men's ski halfpipe competition on Tuesday in Sochi. MIKE EHLMANN/GETTY IMAGES

## Remembering Sarah Burke

Ski halfpipe was making its Olympic debut thanks in part to the efforts of Canada's Sarah Burke, who died in a training accident in 2012.

• "This Olympics for me is

definitely bittersweet," Mike Riddle said. "It's awesome to be here but I know that she should be here too. She's been on my mind a lot this week."

# Canadians find silver lining on short track



Canadians Marianne St-Gelais, from left, Valérie Maltais, Jessica Hewitt and Marie-Ève Drolet won the silver medal in the women's 3,000-metre short track speedskating relay on Tuesday in Sochi. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It was a bittersweet day for Canada's Olympic short-track speedskating team.

Gold-medal hopeful Charles Hamelin crashed out of the 500-metre heats on Tuesday, but within the hour Canada's women's 3,000-metre relay team won a silver medal.

"We feel great. We are really happy to have got the silver medal," said speedskater Jessica Hewitt. "I have never been on an (Olympic) podium before and we have worked very hard for this."

South Korea won gold in the women's relay with a time of four minutes 9.498 seconds, followed closely by China. However, the Chinese were disqualified because their skaters did not immediately leave the track after passing off to their teammates.

That bumped the Canadian team of Marie-Ève Drolet, Hewitt, Valérie Maltais and Marianne St-Gelais up from third place. Canada's final time was 4:10.641.

"We tried a different strat-

egy here; making the exchange on different corners, so it got a little messy at times but we did well and then it just so happened that China were disqualified so we got the silver," said Hewitt. "We tried to put our best foot forward and to be there at the end of the race."

THE CANADIAN PRESS







Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada sit with their coach Marina Zoueva as they wait for their results in the ice dance free dance on Monday in Sochi. Zoueva also coaches Meryl Davis and Charlie White, who beat Virtue and Moir for the ice dance gold. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Canadian duo grew weary of coach's split allegiances

**Figure skating.** Moir says he wanted more support from Zoueva, but concedes she wasn't 'in an easy position'

Marina Zoueva didn't accompany Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir to the Canadian championships this season, attending the U.S. nationals held over the same week instead.

The coach didn't march with Canada in the opening ceremonies of the Sochi Olympics, marching with the U.S. team instead.

A day after the Canadian ice dancers won Olympic silver behind Meryl Davis and Charlie White, Virtue

and Moir lamented Zoueva's split allegiances, admitting to times during this season when they wondered if staying in Canton, Mich., was even a good idea.

"There were moments for sure," Moir said. "We needed to take a step back and re-evaluate if our situation was ideal and if it was going to be the training atmosphere that got us on top of the podium."

"We were both pretty blunt with her in the fall and even leading up to the Olympics that we weren't happy and we felt that sometimes she wasn't in our corner.... She's not in an easy position."

Virtue and Moir praised Zoueva for how she handled the delicate situation. The coach listened, they said, and reshaped parts of their program.

## Americans take over

Virtue and Moir edged the Americans for gold in Vancouver and then went on to win the 2010 and 2012 world championships. But results started tipping in Davis and White's favour this season with judges seemingly preferring the Americans' style.

- "I guess styles or preferences ... I'd be lying if I sat up here and said I didn't feel that in December and in the fall," Moir said.

"I'm fine. It's OK. I made them first and now they are second. It's OK, really," said Zoueva when asked about Virtue and Moir's comments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## NBA

### Lowry lifts Raptors out of post-all-star break malaise

It took the Toronto Raptors a little while to get going in their first game since the all-star break. Guard Kyle Lowry eventually provided a jump start.

Lowry had 24 points and 10 assists as the Raptors broke open a close game in the third quarter and held on for a 103-93 win over the Washington Wizards on Tuesday night.

"He took the game over in the middle of the third quarter and willed us to a win," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Toronto Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas defends Bradley Beal on Tuesday night in Washington. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NFL. Incognito takes on softer tone in wake of bullying investigation

Dolphins offensive lineman Richie Incognito offered apologies to teammate Jonathan Martin, team owner Stephen Ross and investigator Ted Wells on Tuesday in the wake of the NFL-ordered report detailing a racially charged bullying scandal.

The report stated there was a "pattern of harassment" committed by Incognito and teammates John Jerry and Mike Pouncey that extended to two Dolphins linemen and an assistant trainer, all targets of vicious taunts and racist insults.

On his Twitter account, Incognito wrote, "I would like to send Jonathan my apologies as well. Until someone tells me different you are still my brother. No hard feelings :)"

He also apologized to Wells and Ross, saying "this (stuff) got cray, cray."

"There are no winners in the courts," he wrote. "Just families left to deal with their decisions and pick up the pieces. You can't free something."

Incognito, 30, had closed his Twitter account for two days, but returned Monday night with a noticeably different tone, apologizing for "acting



Richie Incognito GETTY IMAGES FILE

like a big baby."

The six-foot-three, 319-pound lineman said he wants to play football again.

Incognito's contract with the Dolphins is about to expire, making him an unrestricted free agent who can sign with any team. Where he'll end up remains to be seen.

It's unclear if Incognito will face punishment from the NFL moving forward. League spokesman Greg Aiello told The Associated Press on Monday that the NFL will comment "at the appropriate time" on Wells' report.

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## MEDALS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot.
Netherlands	6	6	8	20
United States of America	6	4	10	20
Russian Federation	5	8	6	19
Norway	7	4	7	18
Canada	4	9	4	17

## WHAT CANADA DID

### TUESDAY

#### ALPINE SKIING

**Women's Giant Slalom** - Erin Mielzynski, Guelph, Ont., finished 21st with a time of two minutes 40.69 seconds, 3.82 seconds out of first, after coming in 20th in the opening run and 18th in the final run. Marie-Michèle Gagnon (Lac-Etchemin, Que.) and Marie-Pier Prefontaine (St-Sauveur, Que.) did not finish their opening run.

#### BIATHLON

**Men's 15 km Mass Start** - Brendan Green, Hay River, N.W.T., 9th, (43 minutes, 38.3 seconds, +1:09.2); Jean-Philippe Le Guellec, Shannon, Que., 10th, (43:41.6); Nathan Smith, Calgary, DNF.

#### BOBSLEIGH

**Women's** - Kaillie Humphries (Calgary) and Heather Moyse (Summerside, P.E.I.), are second overall after two runs with a time of one minute 55.12 seconds, 0.23 of a second out of first. Jennifer Ciochetti (Edmonton) and Chelsea Valois (Zenon Park, Sask.) are 13th (1:57.06). Heats 3 and 4 take place on Feb. 19.

#### FREESTYLE SKIING

**Men's Ski Halfpipe** - Mike Riddle (Sherwood Park, Alta.) won the silver medal with a second run score of 90.60, 1.40 points out of gold. Noah Bowman (Calgary) was fifth overall (82.60) while Justin Dorey (Vernon, B.C.), who was first in the qualifying round, fell in both final runs and ended up 12th (20.40).

#### SHORT TRACK

**Men's 500 m** - Charlie Cournoyer, Boucherville, Que., (41.18) and Olivier Jean, Lachenaie, Que., (41.61) both won their heats and advanced to the quarter-finals on Friday. Defending Olympic champion Charles Hamelin, Montreal, (1:18.871) fell and finished fourth in his heat and failed to advance.

**Ladies' 1000 m** - Valerie Maltais, La Baie, Que., (1:28.771) and Marie-Eve Drolet, Chicoutimi, Que., (1:31.273) both advanced to the quarter-finals on Friday, finishing their heats first and second respectively. Marianne St-Gelais, St-Felicien (2:05.206) did not qualify for the quarter-final. **Ladies' 3000 m Relay** - Canada moved up to the silver medal position after China was disqualified.

fied. Marie-Eve Drolet (Chicoutimi, Que.), Jessica Hewitt (Kamloops, B.C.), Valerie Maltais (La Baie, Que.), Marianne St-Gelais (St-Felicien, Que.) finished with a time of four minutes, 10.641 seconds, 1.143 seconds out of gold.

#### SNOWBOARD

**Men's Snowboard Cross** - Kevin Hill (Vernon, B.C.) did not finish his semifinal race and placed 8th overall. Christopher Robanske (Calgary) was disqualified in his quarter-final race and finished 17th overall. Jake Holden (Caledon, Ont.) did not advance in his qualifying heat, while Robert Fagan (Cranbrook, B.C.) was disqualified from his.

Both finished tied for 25th overall.

## CURLING

### All Times Eastern

#### MEN

Country	W	L
x-Sweden	8	1
x-Canada	7	2
x-China	7	2
x-Britain	5	4
Norway	5	4
Denmark	4	5
Russia	3	6
Switzerland	3	6
United States	2	7
Germany	1	8

#### x - qualifies for playoffs

#### Tuesday's result

#### TIEBREAKER

Britain 6 Norway 5

#### Wednesday's games

Sweden vs. Britain, 10 a.m.  
Canada vs. China, 10 a.m.

#### WOMEN

Country	W	L
x-Canada	9	0
x-Sweden	7	2
x-Britain	5	4
x-Switzerland	4	5
Japan	4	5
China	4	5
Denmark	4	5
South Korea	3	6
Russia	3	6
United States	1	8

#### x - qualifies for playoffs

#### Monday's results

Britain 9 Russia 6  
South Korea 11 United States 2  
Japan 8 China 5  
Switzerland 10 China 6  
Denmark 8 Britain 7  
Canada 9 South Korea 4  
Sweden 8 Japan 4

#### Wednesday's games

Sweden vs. Switzerland, 5 a.m.  
Sweden vs. Switzerland, 5 a.m.

## HOCKEY

### PRELIMINARY ROUND

#### All times Eastern

#### MEN

##### Group A

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
U.S.	3	2	0	0	0	15	4	8
Russia	3	1	0	0	0	8	5	6
Slovenia	3	1	0	0	2	6	11	3
Slovakia	3	0	0	0	2	2	11	1

##### Group B

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
Canada	3	2	1	0	0	11	2	8
Finland	3	2	0	1	0	15	7	7
Austria	3	1	0	0	2	7	15	3
Norway	3	0	0	0	3	3	12	0

##### Group C

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
Sweden	3	3	0	0	0	10	5	9
Switzerland	3	2	0	1	0	12	1	6
Czech Rep.	3	1	0	0	2	6	7	3
Latvia	3	0	0	0	3	5	10	0

**Note:** Three points awarded for a regulation win, two for an overtime/shootout win and one for an overtime/shootout loss.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 18

#### QUALIFICATION PLAYOFF ROUND

Slovenia 4 Austria 0  
Russia 4 Norway 0  
Czech Republic 5 Slovakia 3  
Latvia 3 Switzerland 1  
Wednesday's games  
**QUARTERFINALS**  
Slovenia at Sweden, 3 a.m.  
Russia at Finland, 7:30 a.m.  
Latvia at Canada, 12 p.m.  
Czech Republic at United States, 12 p.m.

#### Friday's games

#### SEMIFINALS

TBAA at TBAH, 7 a.m.

TBAA at TBAH, 12 p.m.

#### Saturday's games

#### BRONZE MEDAL GAME

TBAA at TBAH, 10 a.m.

#### Sunday's games

#### GOLD MEDAL GAME

TBAA at TBAH, 7 a.m.

#### WOMEN

#### Tuesday's results

#### SEVENTH PLACE GAME

Germany 3 Japan 2

#### FIFTH PLACE GAME

Finland 4 Russia 0

#### Thursday's games

#### BRONZE MEDAL GAME

Switzerland at Sweden, 7 a.m.

#### GOLD MEDAL GAME

Canada at United States, 12 p.m.



## Russia 4, Norway 0. Relief in Sochi as hosts advance

When Alexander Radulov pumped both fists and let loose a jubilant scream, an entire hockey nation also exhaled for a day.

Although the Russians are labouring through their home Olympics, a few timely goals and two brilliant goalies are keeping them alive.

Radulov had two goals and an assist, and Russia survived its first elimination game with a 4-0 win Tuesday over Norway.



Alexander Radulov  
GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sergei Bobrovsky made 22 saves in the second straight shutout for the fifth-seeded Russians, who earned a date with Finland in the quarter-finals Wednesday.

### Czech Rep. 5, Slovakia 3

#### Cervenka seals victory in 2nd

Roman Cervenka scored for a second time late in the second period to give the Czech Republic a four-goal lead, and it went on to beat Slovakia 5-3 on Tuesday and advance to an Olympic quarter-final match against the United States.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Slovenia 4, Austria 0

#### Sweden set to test feel-good story

Slovenia added another chapter to its feel-good story.

The Slovenes beat Austria 4-0 on Tuesday in the men's hockey Olympic qualification round and play top-seeded Sweden on Wednesday in the first of four quarter-final games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Latvia 3, Swiss 1. Canada awaits upset winners

Latvia's reward for its first Olympic win in 12 years is a quarter-final date with defending champion Canada.

That sobering realization couldn't dampen the thrill for coach Ted Nolan and his underdog players.

Oskars Bartulis and Lauris Darzins scored in the first period, and Latvia reached the Olympic men's hockey quarter-finals for the first time with a 3-1 win over Switzerland Tuesday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 'We just need one more than the other team'

**Style points don't count.** Team Canada still adjusting to big ice, but winning remains bottom line

No matter which forwards Team Canada dresses for its quarter-final, they've combined to score well over 300 goals in the NHL this season.

No team in Sochi features that kind of depth, and yet one concern going into Wednesday's game against Latvia is a lack of offence up front. As this becomes a single-elimination tournament, Canada doesn't need 300 goals.

"We just need one more than the other team," Babcock said.

Getting that one big, important goal could make or break Canada moving forward. As the game against Finland showed, offence can be tough to come by on the international ice, especially against well-structured European opponents.

Finding a way to get to the middle of the ice and closer to



Sidney Crosby talks with Canada's starting goalie, Carey Price, during practice on Tuesday in Sochi. Asked about Olympic pressure Tuesday, Price replied: "I live inside a bubble anyway. I don't get into too much about what anybody has to say, really."

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

the net was a major emphasis in practice Tuesday and could be the difference between reaching the semifinals and going home early.

"You watch our games and we've been on the outside a lot," said winger Corey Perry, who will have a new line-mate in Jamie Benn between him and Ryan

Getzlaf. "To get shots to the net, to get second opportunities, that's what the three of us are going to do."

For all the talk about the big ice in advance of Sochi, it has made a difference — but not the way some figured.

Just because there's more space doesn't necessarily mean there's more room to get creative offensively.

The Canadians scored six goals against Austria after scoring three in the opener against Norway, but it was against Finland

where they learned a lesson. Holding onto the puck in the offensive zone paved the way for plenty of shots, but it was like a basketball team trying to shoot just from the outside. With a rink that's 15 feet wider, it's much more difficult to get quality scoring chances.

"You're a long ways from the net when you're hanging out on the wall," said Jeff Carter, who leads all Canadian forwards with three goals. "We talked about that and maybe trying to shrink the ice a little bit and getting to the (faceoff)-dot lines and just kind of make it feel more like an NHL-size rink."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Not so beautiful game on ice

"I almost like to say it's comparable to soccer, almost, because the game feels very neutral."

Centre Jonathan Toews, on the international-sized ice in Sochi.



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# Honda hit hybrid high in 2014



PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

**Review.** The last time Honda made a hybrid as impressive as the Accord it was over a decade ago with the original Insight

MALCOLM GUNN  
wheelbasemedia.com

When a new hybrid sedan is called for, it appears that Honda is finally prepared to step up and deliver.

But instead of just one version of the Accord, there are two to consider: the Accord Plug-In that might possibly come to Canada (it's now available stateside); and another with less battery juice that you don't plug in.

Both hybrids can operate on battery or gasoline power independently or together in combination. It's the type of system commonly used in the Toyota Camry, Ford Fusion and Hyundai Sonata/Kia Optima duo.

Up to now for Honda, the electric motor operated only in tandem with the gas engine

(referred to as a partial or mild hybrid). That makes for good, but not exactly leading-edge fuel economy, and Honda has come up short in challenging Toyota and others for its rightful share of the expanding hybrid market. Until now, that is (see factbox).

The secret to the Accord Hybrid is what Honda calls its Intelligent Multi-Mode Drive, or i-MMD. The system consists of two electric motors that are serviced by a lithium-ion battery pack plus a 141-horsepower 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine. One 166-horsepower electric motor serves as the Accord's primary powerplant and principally drives the front wheels, while the other motor acts as a fixed-ratio direct-drive continuously variable transmission (referred to by Honda as an e-CVT).

The gasoline engine functions exclusively as a generator for much of the time (sort of like the Chevrolet Volt) by supplying power to the drive motor as well as helping to recharge the batteries. But at cruising speeds above 70 km/h, it seamlessly connects to drive the front wheels, with or

## 2014 Honda Accord Hybrid

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan
- **Engines (hp)** 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (141) and a 166-horsepower electric motor (195, net)
- **Transmissions.** Continuously variable
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$31,300

## Design

Visually, the Accord Hybrid lacks the different nose that has been assigned to its Plug In counterpart, but it does feature a blue-accented grille, headlights and running lights, plus unique 17-inch wheels. Also, a trunk spoiler and special lower body panel improve vehicle aerodynamics (to help reduce fuel consumption)

## Compare



**1** Ford Fusion hybrid  
Base price: \$30,400



**2** Toyota Camry hybrid  
Base price: \$29,500

## Fuel economy

Honda claims it has leapfrogged the pack with a class-leading 3.7 l/100 km in the city and 4.0 on the highway. The top-selling Toyota Camry hybrid is rated at 4.5/4.9 and the Ford Fusion at 4.0/4.1. The Accord also beats out both the Hyundai Sonata and Kia Optima hybrid models that are rated at 5.4/4.9.

without electric-motor assist, depending on the load (accelerating and or heading uphill). In these instances, the system's 195 net total horsepower and 226 pound-feet of torque come into play.

The reason the Accord's city fuel economy is so impressive is that at speeds below 70 km/h, and under light-load conditions, only the electric drive motor is functioning to power the front wheels, or while the batteries have sufficient juice.

The entire drivetrain is cradled in a weight-saving all-aluminum sub-frame that

replaces the steel and aluminum one installed in regular Accords. Additionally, an aluminum rear bumper beam replaces the steel version. The weight savings help partially offset the battery pack that's packaged behind the rear seat and reduces trunk space by about 25 per cent.

Accord Hybrid pricing begins at \$31,300, including destination charges for the base model, which includes a wide assortment of content. The Touring trim level adds forward collision and lane departure warning safety

systems, moonroof and a premium sound package along with LED headlights, adaptive cruise control (which keeps you following at a safe distance) and a navigation system.

Without question Honda has become a technological leader in gasoline-electric propulsion. Whether the company can trade on the Accord's already rousing success and convert new buyers would seem to be a foregone conclusion. Why? It's the hybrid that everyone knew Honda could build.

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# What happens when you Love speed?

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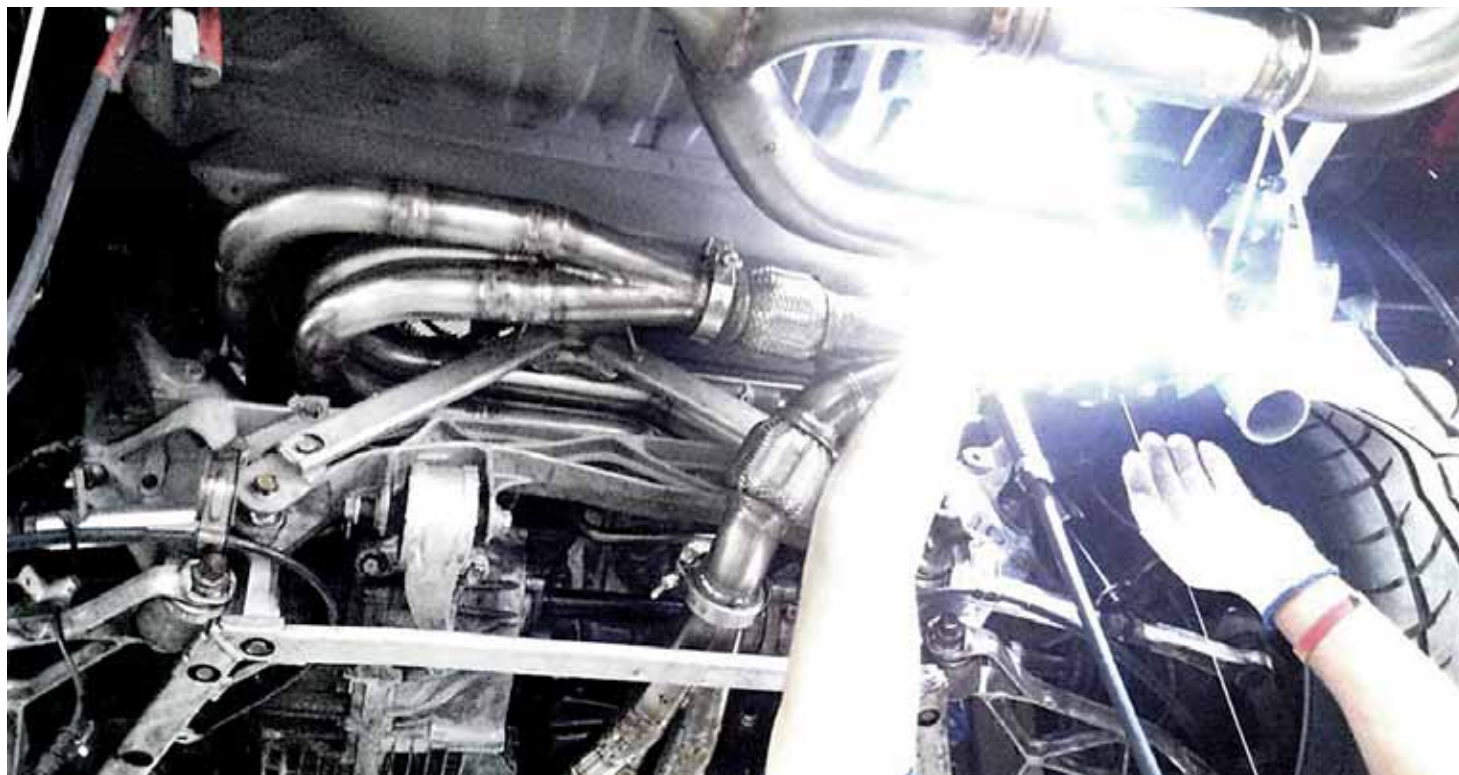
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In the quest for the outrageous, the unique and the blindingly fast, where a stock car just won't cut it, there is "the tuner." If you're unwilling to be outgunned — ever — chances are you'll be on the phone with someone like Cody Loveland, the owner of LoveFab, Inc., based in Traverse City, Mich.

The point is simple. Companies such as LoveFab take the guesswork out of doing modifications yourself. You pick up the phone, say what you want your ride to do, and Loveland will tell you how much it will cost to get there. Road racing, rallying, street driving, weekend drag racing. It doesn't really matter.

But how does LoveFab know what to do? Well, the company is perhaps best known for its engine programs for the Acura NSX, which was built from 1991-2005. Loveland works with other makes/brands such as Porsche, BMW and the new 2014 Corvette Stingray, but over the years, he has learned what can and can't be done to the NSX's small V6 engine. And not always by doing things the easy way.

Equipment limitations are often discovered by breaking things, or by racing ... or both. Top tuners race their own hardware to learn and Loveland seems to have a flair for the dramatic. Namely, the yearly Pikes Peak International Hill Climb



Each car is extensively fine-tuned on for driveability as well as big power numbers at LoveFab Inc and reputable tuners will of course do this. BOTH IMAGES WHEELBASE

in Colorado.

"Racing is the most brutal form of testing there is, especially Pikes Peak. When you're racing cars at 14,000 feet, the strain on the parts is astronomical when compared to street driving at relative sea level. When you're racing up a mountain, and you look over the edge DOWN at an airplane, it really gives you a sense of magnitude. Our parts survive up there, we've proven it, and so they survive in normal street or track driving without issue. In fact, we have a couple of NSX turbo systems with over 100,000 miles on them with zero issues since installation."

For most people, that's all

the proof they would ever need to drop US \$11,000 or so on a proven package, but what if your wallet is a bit thicker? Is anything possible with any car? "With a big enough cheque, yes."

A full-on 600-700-horsepower rebuild with a LoveFab turbocharger system and all the tuning to optimize the NSX can run close to US \$30,000, but there is no guesswork for customers. The price, while it seems healthy, is just a small percentage of the research and development costs that it took to create the package in the first place. For buyers who love their NSX and have the cash, it seems like a no-brainer. Dan Spinelli of Albany, N.Y., shipped his red 1993 NSX to LoveFab in Michigan for a total engine overhaul and power boost.

"I have a buddy with a (Porsche) 911 who needs a little lesson. He doesn't know yet. I'm thinking 550-600 rear-wheel-horsepower. It's really a sickness and there should be a hotline for 'speedism,'" said Albany. But what about newer cars with engines bathed in electronics? Can you just drop off your new BMW for some upgrading? Is it too complicated?

"No," says Loveland, "In most cases, the plethora of electronics and mechanical advances helps dial the car in that much further. What makes things difficult on the 'street car' side of things is all of the emissions laws ... For in-

stance, our NSX turbo systems have passed emissions in 49 states, and will even pass the strict sniffer tests of California. But, because there are 'visible' modifications, the cars are not street legal. This is a huge nuisance and quite a drain on our overall gross sales."

There are other issues, too, especially when the cars end up in the hands of others who are less experienced.

"Generally, we don't see an NSX back in the shop once it has left. The unfortunate but very common exception is when a long-distance customer entrusts their NSX to another tuner shop, and ends up with a blown motor. The customers are told that they can expect X amount more power, when that shop doesn't have the experience necessary to dictate what a 'safe' power level is. Half of the cars in here over the past two years were directly related to other shops."

It's a high-stakes business that likely makes anyone wonder why they're in it in the first place. "Aside from the obvious of making a living to support my family," says Loveland, "the largest driving factor is witnessing the customer's giddy-schoolgirl-scream and ear-to-ear smile that always happens during the first drive after modification."

"Our idea of a happy customer is one who can hop in their car at any time of the year, fire it up, and it starts



Tuners are sometimes pigeon-holed by brand, but this hand-built General Motors V8 turbo system proves otherwise for LoveFab.

every time. They can go to the grocery store to get milk, or to the track and bang out some hot laps. Today's 'tuner cars' have to do it all, or the customer won't be happy."

From the other side of the fence, NSX owner Spinelli jokingly sums up the apparent never-ending obsession with speed. "If you're not first, you're last."

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SL AWD Premium model shown with Accessory Roof Rail Crossbars\*

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# Hammound's latest design has him on cloud nine

**Chrysler 200.** Ontario native has struck gold twice in the cut-throat, highly competitive world of designing cars



**AUTO PILOT**  
Mike Goetz  
drive@metronews.ca

You think the Olympics are competitive? Try designing vehicles for a living.

First you got to get a job as a designer at a major automaker. It's a tight job market. There are more professional basketball players in the NBA than there are professional cars designers in the entire world. If you're lucky and good enough to get that gig, you're still not home free.

At Chrysler there can be as many as 15-plus exterior designers working on the same project, hoping to have their work carried to the next stage, says Jeff Hammound during our interview session



A side view of the slick Chrysler 200. COURTESY OF CHRYSLER

at the Toronto auto show. "They never say you are the next designer of the car. Everybody sketches. Everybody puts designs on the wall."

But this Chrysler designer, a native of Guelph, Ontario, struck gold twice. One of his designs became the 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee, and just recently, his work came to life in the form of the all-new 2014 Chrysler 200.

Not only was he the lead exterior designer of the 200, but during the design process he was promoted to design manager, to oversee all the vehicle's exterior design matters right through to production. "That was unusual. It doesn't always happen that way. It gave me a lot of ownership of the design. I obviously had a lot of help from upper management ... But it really feels like my baby."



Canadian car designer Jeff Hammound and his 'baby', the Chrysler 200. PROVIDED

You don't run into car designers on the street every day, especially Canadian ones, so Hammound agreed to quick Q&A about his profession....

#### Typical day at the office?

"If we're sketching, you sketch all day long. A lot of us like to sketch after hours ... If the vehicle is 'in clay' you'll spend your day on floor, tapping lines,

etc. You're in rough clothes because you get covered in clay. It's fun though. Then you're working with engineers and going to a lot of meetings."

#### Hardest part of the job?

"The time you spend trying to hold your design. That's the hardest part. That it stays true to its original design, through cost constraints, manufacturing constraints,

engineering constraints. You really have to learn to balance your emotions. You need to learn to take criticism and not take it so personally, but you don't want to take the personal element out of it either, because it's the passion that makes a design successful."

#### Best advice to a car designer wanna-be?

"Definitely look at going to one of the more prestigious (design) schools, because you'll get exposure to the auto industry. The car companies come in and say, we like you, you and you. (Hammound went to Detroit's College for Creative Studies). Besides that, you really have to be passionate. It's very competitive and you'll be putting in long hours."

#### Dream assignment?

"As most designers would say — a super car. Few restrictions and more about what can you do to make it as ostentatious as possible. The proportions are also wide and long — makes for a really nice canvas."

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# Heavy-duty trucks built to be invincible

**Driving Force.** GM, Ford and Chrysler are sole trio to sell half-ton-plus beasts and their capabilities don't go unnoticed

JILL  
MCINTOSH  
Drive@metronews.ca

If you have a big job to do, chances are you'll need a big truck. Heavy-duty pickup trucks usually look similar to their lighter-duty siblings, but they're built to handle more stress.

"The difference is in their capability," says Jeff Luke, executive chief engineer for General Motors' full- and mid-size trucks. "Everything is up-

sized and stronger."

Pickup trucks are designated by their payload capacity, which is the combined weight of passengers and cargo they can carry, measured in tons. A light-duty truck, which is badged as a 1500 or 150 depending on the manufacturer, is popularly called a half-ton.

Heavy-duty trucks are rated in three-quarter-ton (badged

as 2500 or 250), and in one-ton (3500 or 350).

These "ton" names are actually out of date, and modern trucks can handle much more—GM's new one-ton can carry more than three times that much. They were introduced back when trucks had far less capacity, and a half-ton could only carry 1,000 lbs., but the names have stuck. Buyers

should look at the actual specifications for each truck to determine what they need.

Building a heavy-duty truck starts with the frame. While it's basically the same overall dimension as on a half-ton truck, the sections are thicker to handle heavier loads. The axles are larger, the shocks are stronger, and the tires are built to take more weight. Some trucks have dual rear wheels, which spreads the load across four tires and allows for even more capacity.

Heavy-duty trucks will offer diesel engines, which provide the highest amount of torque—the low-end pulling power needed to move heavy loads or big trailers. The transmission and rear end have to be strong enough to handle the engine's power as well.

When the engine is working hard, keeping it cool is an issue. "The radiator will be larger and heavier, and there will be more coolant," Luke says. "These engines may have more oil in them, and there will be coolers for the oil and transmission fluid."

There are larger openings in the bumper area so air can easily flow over the oil and transmission coolers, which look like miniature radiators.

## To note

• **Titanic trio.** Currently, only GM, Ford and Chrysler make heavy-duty trucks. The largest Japanese pickup truck available is a half-ton.

• **Be prepared.** Any vehicle that regularly tows a trailer should be equipped with a transmission fluid cooler to avoid premature wear or damage.

• **Ratings.** Trucks are rated on how much they can carry, and how much they can tow with a trailer hitch and with a fifth-wheel hitch, which attaches in the bed.

If these fluids aren't kept cool, it can lead to premature wear or even component failure in the engine or transmission.

The down side is that because these trucks are heavier than a half-ton truck, they also get poorer fuel economy. "That's just physics, so we try to offset it with aerodynamics," Luke says. "On this new truck, the air deflector shape is taken from the Corvette so that air travels around it. Every little bit helps."



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This GMC can carry more, the axles are larger and the shocks are stronger.



However, the down side is they weigh over a half ton and fuel economy isn't great. But this is the price people pay and accept with heavy-duty trucks. BOTH PROVIDED



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## Hit the lights

Professional truckers and other drivers who keep safety gear in their vehicles likely carry flares to warn other drivers of problems they might encounter. The only problem, according to the folks who distribute PowerFlare products, is that traditional flares contain perchlorate, which is a substance considered highly toxic, especially if allowed to seep into the ground water. The solution is a tough, durable, battery-powered LED (light-emitting diode) product that sends out a rapidly strobing light that's visible from great distances. The coloured case containing the PowerFlare is durable (and water-proof) and reportedly can be hit or run over without damaging the unit. They're available in a variety of shades and are sold individually or in bulk starting at about \$50 US each. Examine the full line and purchase at [powerflare.com](http://powerflare.com).



## At your service

If you have ever driven out of your garage and later on wondered if you closed the big door, you're not alone. According to the manufacturer of the Garage Butler, forgetting to close it and leaving your home exposed to theft or the elements is a relatively common occurrence. The company's patented device eliminates the problem by automatically closing the door once you have departed. The system can be set to close after a specified elapsed time period (from three to 30 minutes), or to close automatically once the sun goes down. The Garage Butler works in conjunction with your existing automatic opener, but won't interfere with its operation. The unit with six timer settings is priced at US \$90. Order from [garage-closer.com](http://garage-closer.com).



## 'Painted' jewelry

"Fordite," also called Detroit or Motor City agate, is formed from leftover paint residue from the days when vehicle enamel was applied by hand inside factory spray booths. This was prior to the mid-1980s, when humans, and not robots, did the painting. Over time, the baked globules would congeal and harden into substances resembling multicoloured stones. Now scavenged mostly from abandoned factories, Fordite is being recycled by artisans and turned into amazing-looking jewelry, including brooches, rings, pendants, earrings and the like. You can find a number of Fordite jewelry artisans online, including California-based Joanie's Creations. The company sells a variety of pieces from a constantly evolving collection that are priced in the US \$100 range. Visit [joaniescreationsofcoronado.pdqsys.com](http://joaniescreationsofcoronado.pdqsys.com).



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### Aries

March 21 - April 20

You will receive advice from all directions today, making it difficult to work out who is talking sense. Maybe you should shut yourself away for an hour or two and come to your own conclusions.

### Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You would be wise to keep your cash in your pocket today because if you make one wrong move, you may have to make several more to cover it up and before you know what's happening it will be costing you a fortune.

### Gemini

May 22 - June 21

It will pay you to keep a low profile and wait for the effects of today's Mercury-Saturn alignment to pass. That applies to all areas of your life but especially to your work.

### Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You may want to give voice to your feelings today but is that really such a good idea? The planets warn you won't do your cause much good if you let your resentments out for everyone to see.

### Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Steer clear of people who seem to enjoy talking about their worries. It may make them feel good to feel bad but it will spoil what might otherwise be a marvelous day.

### Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Someone who is jealous of your popularity will make life tough for you today but they are unlikely to succeed. Let the negativity go over your head. It'll annoy them. Good.

### Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You will have to tell a little white lie today, the kind that keeps a friend from getting into serious trouble. A few days from now, when they realize what you did, they will thank you profusely.

### Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Avoid quick fixes and dubious schemes today because they will cost you money. Anyone who approaches you with any of those once-in-a-lifetime, just-can't-lose proposals must be shown the door.

### Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You must control your temper today. That may be easier said than done but it must be done or what starts as a minor dispute could quickly get out of hand. Avoid people who like to fight.

### Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

If you make a promise today you will have to keep, so think carefully before making a commitment. With Mercury, planet of communication, under lots of pressure you should keep your mouth shut.

### Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

What you are worrying about is not worth the time. A few days from now, you will look back and wonder how you could have gotten so worked up about something so trivial.

### Pisces

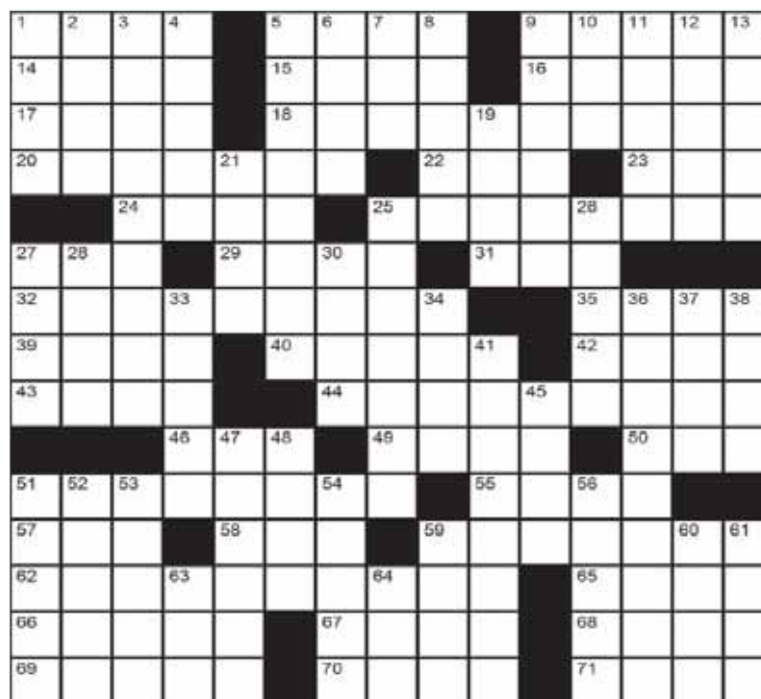
Feb. 20 - March 20

The Sun is moving through your sign and you're feeling on top of the world but today's Mercury-Saturn link could dampen your mood with negative news. SALLY BROMPTON

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down

### Across

1. Estonia's Lake
5. By-the-tracks structures, for short
9. Floral leaf
14. Owl's call
15. Wholly Part link: 2 wds.
16. Disney dog
17. Wanes
18. SOCHI 2014 - Biathlon competition: 2 wds.
20. Error
22. Verdi aria: "Tu"
23. Extremist org. in 1974 headlines
24. Tunesmith Lisa
25. Nunavut: Sylvia Territorial Park
27. Fib
29. Mr. Matsuhisa (Celebrity chef)
31. Canuck rock gr.
32. Moscow: One of the vivid architectural features of Saint Basil's Cathedral: 2 wds.
35. Spinning stats
39. Kabul,
40. Part of Fred Flintstone's roar!
42. Old Rome's 1052
43. Qatar's capital
44. Maggie Gyllenhaal's actor husband Peter
46. Arctic explorer John
49. Misplace
50. Ms. West



51. SOCHI 2014 - Snowboard event, Giant Slalom
55. Keen on
57. Tokyo, formally
58. Ms. Zadora
59. Not for
62. Canadian painter of The Jack Pine: 2 wds.

65. Sarah McLachlan song
66. SOCHI 2014 - Adler Skating Center
67. Labourer, in olde Anglo-Saxon times
68. Rock 'n' What?
69. Canadian furniture store since 1909

70. Origin
  71. Carpenter and Fire
- Down**
1. "Pardon me..."
  2. Quebecoise singer, Alys (b.1923 - d.2011)
  3. SOCHI 2014 - Winter Olympics sport

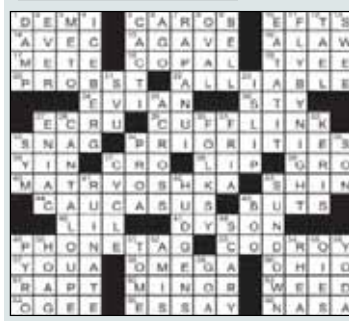
4. John Lennon's "Hard"
5. 1984 Bryan Adams tune
6. Jaunt
7. Veto
8. Curl the lips
9. SOCHI 2014 - Cross-Country event, Team

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

10. 'Client' completer
11. Legume
12. In the least: 2 wds.
13. Devoted
19. Smidgen
21. Memphis,
25. Candy machine product: 2 wds.
26. "Candle in the Wind" subject, Jean
27. Cargo
28. Lowdown
30. Feathery scarves
33. Canadian actress Catherine
34. River of Spain
36. Luc (French Canadian lyricist of the musical Notre-Dame de Paris)
37. Ms. Sorvino
38. "West Story" (1961)
41. Designated
45. Ms. Rowlands
47. First Greek letters
48. Director Mr. Petri
51. Flower's one-of-some
52. Love lots
53. Shakespeare role
54. Designer chairs surname
56. Accessory for Queen Elizabeth
59. Excellent
60. Sediment
61. Mr. Bachman's
63. Cable TV network Spike, formerly
64. NNW u-turn

## Yesterday's Crossword



## Sudoku

### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

## Yesterday's Sudoku



**Today**

4° / -2°

Partly cloudy

**Thursday**

2° / -4°

Flurries

60%

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**ADVANTAGE**

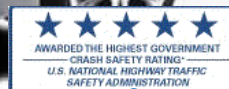
**— HUGE SAVINGS —**  
**ON NEW 2013'S AT STEELE HYUNDAI**

2013  
**SONATA**

**SAVE**

**\$6,500**

**16 TO CHOOSE FROM**

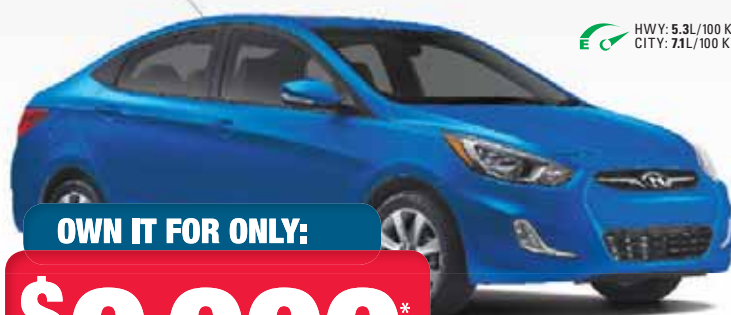


**AIR  
CONDITIONING  
INCLUDED**

2013  
**ACCENT 4-DR L**

**ONLY 2 LEFT!**

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM  
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM



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**THE HYUNDAI  
ADVANTAGE  
BEST  
PRICING!**

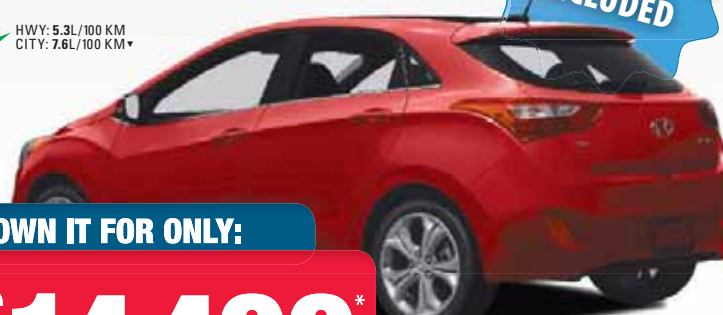
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WARRANTY**

**STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:**

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FRONT, SIDE AND CURTAIN AIRBAGS

2013  
**ELANTRA GT**

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM  
CITY: 7.6L/100 KM



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BEST  
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**5 YEAR  
WARRANTY**

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INPUT JACKS • ANTI-LOCK BRAKE SYSTEM (ABS) • ELECTRONIC BRAKE  
FORCE DISTRIBUTION (EBD) • VEHICLE STABILITY MANAGEMENT (VSM) •  
ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL (ESC) WITH TRACTION CONTROL SYSTEM (TCS)

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